

The Fraziers of Frazier Point on Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman 2026

Information and photograph sources in this biography are cited except for ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and findagrave.com; therefore, an uncited fact or photograph came from those sources. Property records were not researched; the properties noted are listed in the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records database or found in newspaper notices.

The Fraziers of Palomar Mountain -- James Frazier and his sisters Maria and Elizabeth -- lived on Palomar Mountain starting when James arrived solo sometime before 1887 and ending when Maria died and Elizabeth left in 1918. They were well known, and active locally. Frazier Point on Palomar Mountain is named after them.



Frazier Point off Highway S6
on the 1997 U.S.G.S Palomar Observatory map

The Frazier sisters and Maria in particular became known for their hard work, and the death of Maria Frazier became part of Palomar Mountain legend.

FRAZIER OR FRAZER OR FRASIER?

In a Notice to Creditors published in the Escondido Daily Times-Advocate of November 22, 1913, the title of the notice is “Estate of James Frazer, sometimes called James Frazier, deceased” and the estate administrator is his sister “Maria Frazer. Administratrix of the Estate of James Frazer, sometimes called James Frazier, Deceased ^[73].”

Numerous sources including the US census, newspapers and county directories have their last name as Frazier or Frazer and sometimes Frasier. The 1850, 1860, and 1870 U.S. Census has James Frazier, and his parental family recorded as Frazier. Maria Frazier can appear as Mariah or Maria, and Elizabeth Frazier can appear as Lizzie or Elizabeth in newspapers and other sources. The U.S. General Land Office records for their lands have their names recorded as Lizzie Frazer, Mariah Frazer, and James Frazier.

BEFORE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

In the **1850 U.S. Census**, **James Frazier** (age 12, born in Illinois in 1838) lived in Liberty, Randolph County, Illinois with his parents Thomas and Louisa Frazier (age 50 and 33 respectively), and five siblings: Amanda (age 10), Nancy (age 8), Mary (age 5), Samuel (age 4), and John (age 0).

In the **1860 U.S. Census**, 22-year-old **James Frazier** was living in Randolph County, Illinois, with his mother Louisa (age 45) and Amanda, Nancy, Mary, Samuel, John, and Henry (age 7), **Maria** (age 5, born in Illinois), **Elizabeth** (age 2, born in Illinois) and William (age 1).

In the **Illinois Civil War records** ^[39], **James Frazer** with occupation carpenter, had a dark complexion, hazel eyes, black hair, and was 6 foot 2 ³/₄ inches in height; he was enlisted as a private in the Union Army 22nd Infantry, Company H in Illinois on June 25, 1861, was wounded in the abdomen at Stones River, Tennessee on December 29, 1862, and then mustered out due to wounds on April 15, 1863.

Henry Bond Restarick writes about James Frazier's Civil War wounds in his memoirs [19]:

A number of men had taken up homesteads and brought their families to live on Palomar. Among these was a man named Fraser who came from Indiana. He had been in the Union Army during the Civil War and was one of two men whom I knew, who was shot through the abdomen by an ounce Minie ball and lived to tell the tale. Fraser told me he was on picket duty and standing behind a tree, when he spied a rebel on the opposite lines and stepped out to take a shot at him. The Confederate soldier was quicker than he, however, and before Fraser could fire, he was hit by a ball just above the navel. The Southerner came over to him and asked him if he would like to be carried over to the Confederate lines or if he preferred to wait for his own men. Fraser replied he would wait for his own boys and when they came, they carried him to a deserted farm house close by. A doctor looked him over and said he could do nothing for him as the ball had evidently gone through his intestines.

Soon after this, the forces on both sides left the neighborhood. Fraser thought he was being left alone to die when who should walk into the house but the rebel who had shot him. He had been wounded in the arm which he carried in a sling. He expressed great regret for having wounded Fraser and said he would stay and take care of him and that if he were left a permanent invalid, he would see that he did not want, as his father was a wealthy man. There was no food in the house but a jug of corn whiskey was found and the Confederate soldier mixed this with water and gave it to the wounded Yankee to drink every so often.

About four days later, the Union forces returned and the doctor who had seen Fraser before said to him: "What, you here yet? You ought to be dead!" The surgeon said the ball must have passed through him without severing the intestines and that it was fortunate that he had eaten no food. Fraser said he suffered considerably with his back but was otherwise strong enough.

Father Thomas Frazer died in 1864 (born in Ohio on December 8, 1798, and died February 28, 1864, in Randolph County, Illinois) and is buried at the Ebenezer Memorial Cemetery in Rockwood, Randolph County, Illinois.

Backdating from the ages given for mother Louisa Frazier/Frazer in the U.S. Censuses of 1850 (33), 1860 (45), 1870 (53), and 1880 (61), she was likely born in 1817 since it was recorded twice, whereas 1815 and 1819 were recorded once. Her maiden name may be Barber but there is a confusion among Louisa Barber records on ancestry.com, signified by death date and location; Louisa Frazier/Frazer came to Palomar Mountain with two of her daughters about 1895, dying within a few years, and was buried there [see text below].

By the time of the **1870 U.S. Census**, 32-year-old **James Frazier** was living in Bridges, Ozark County, Missouri; he was a carpenter, with an inferred spouse 19-year-old Mary E. Frazier, (born in Illinois) with occupation “keeping house.” Mary E. Frazier is an “inferred spouse” in that the 1870 census does not identify marital status for a cohabiting female, but since she is listed after him as keeping house, she is an inferred spouse.

In that **1870 U.S. Census**, 53-year-old “Lancy” (Louisa) was the head of household in Randolph County, Illinois, with occupation “keeping house” and living with John (age 20), Henry (age 17), **Maria** (age 15), **Elizabeth** (age 13), and Thomas (age 6).

In the **1880 U.S. Census**, 40-year-old **James Frazier** (born in Illinois) was living in Dallas, Texas, and was a mechanist, with his wife 29-year-old Mary E. Frazier (born in Illinois) with occupation “keeping house,” and 23-year-old sister **Mariah** (born in Illinois) with occupation “at home.”

In the **1880 U.S. Census**, John Frazer (age 28) was a single farmer living in Rockwood, Illinois, with his mother Louisa (age 61, occupation housekeeping), 19-year-old sister **Elizabeth**, 15-year-old brother Thomas, and two Frazer nephews (Pinckney and Oliver).

The **1890 U.S. Census** records were lost in a fire.

Brother Thomas Frazier re-enters this story many years later.

JAMES FRAZIER ARRIVES ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN



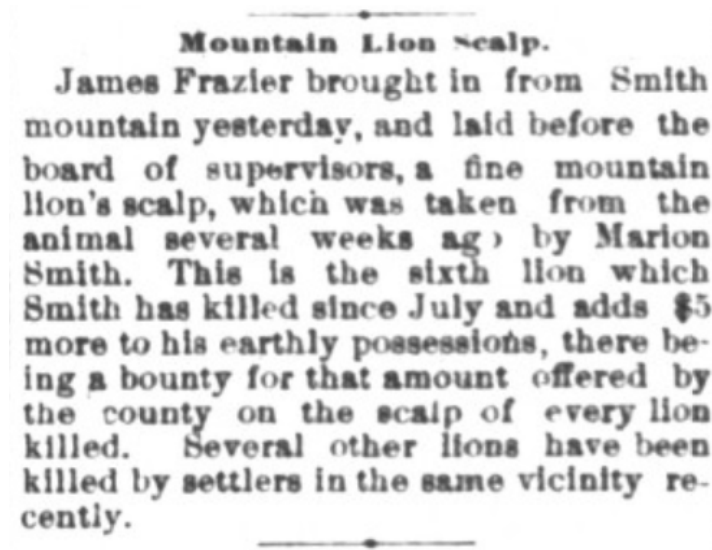
James Frazier at 68 years old, in Robert Asher's 1906 photo

James Frazier arrived on Palomar Mountain (then known as Smith Mountain, named after Joseph Smith) sometime before 1887. This item appeared in the San Diego Union on April 1, 1887; given the Damron and Dyche names who lived on the east side of

Palomar Mountain, and given the Justice of the Peace title, the officiant is probably the James Frazier of this biography [84]:

Milton W. Damron, of San Luis Rey, and Mary Ellen Dyche, of Smith Mountain, were married on March 27th by D.B. Frazer, Justice of the Peace.

This item appeared in the San Diego Union of March 14, 1891 [77]:



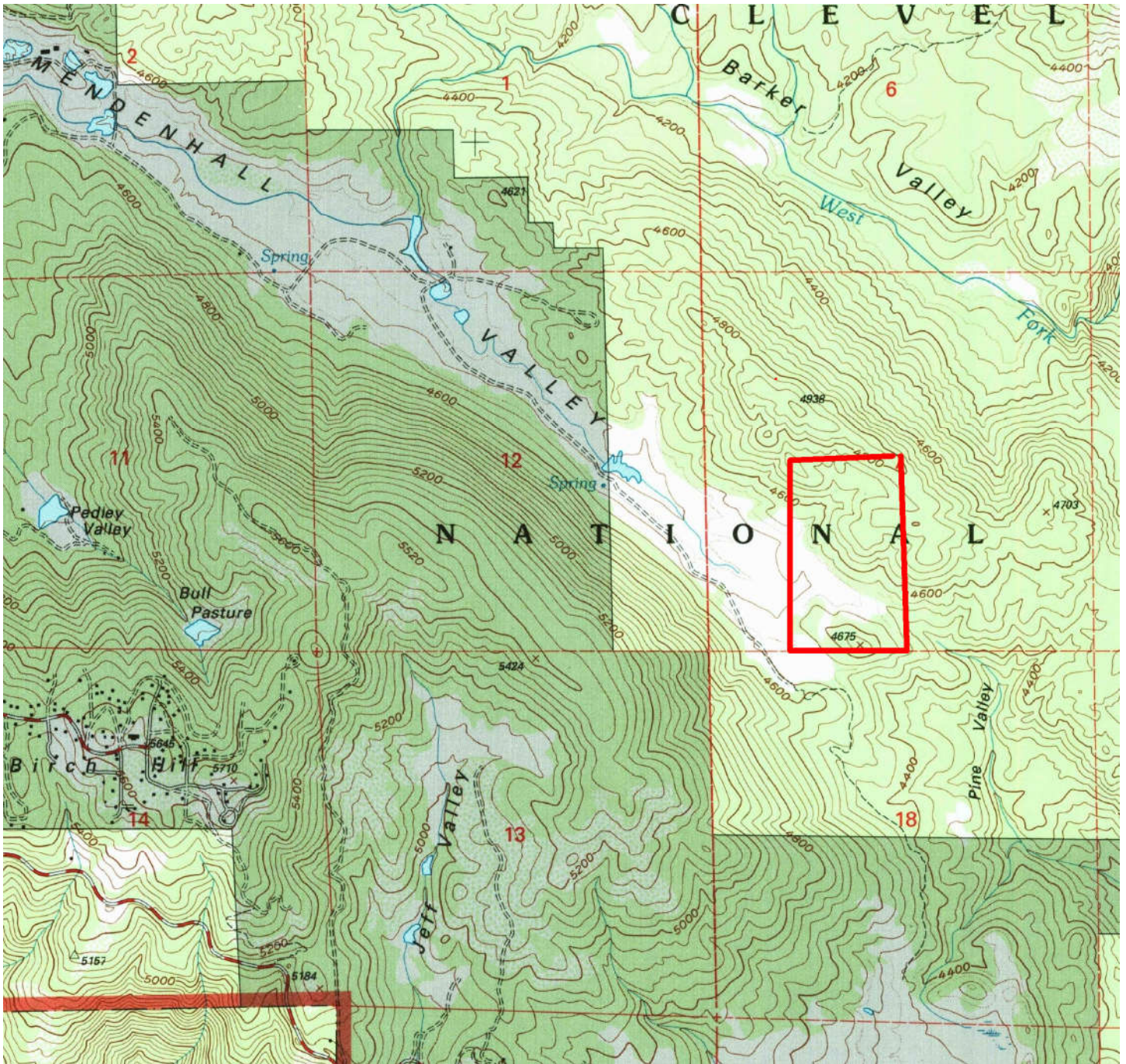
San Diego Union, March 14, 1891, page 5, column 2

In addition to the various spellings of his last name, James Frazier's middle name is difficult to verify.

To confuse matters, a James G. Frazier was appointed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors as an election judge for the **Ballena** precinct in October 1886, and a James McG. Frazier was listed an election judge for **Ballena** precinct for a special San Diego County election to be held in September 1887 [74,78]. In September 1890, Mr. Frazer of **Ballena** exhibited fruit with the Cuyamaca Horticultural Society at the second annual fair of the San Diego County District Agricultural Association in Escondido [40]. However, the San Diego Union in April 1888, reported that F. McG. Frasier, an extensive ranch-owner in the Ballena valley, was in San Diego, so that "extensive ranch-owner in the Ballena valley" appears to be another Frasier/Frazier [85].

James Frazier is listed as a farmer at Nellie on Smith Mountain in regional directories for the years 1892 to 1895 [4,5,6].

James Frazier purchased eighty acres on Palomar Mountain from the U.S. government on March 26, 1894 [32].



James Frazier's 1894 purchase of eighty acres

Overlaid on 1997 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory map

Robert Asher writes [27]:

... I think the Barker family [were] the first settlers in [Barker] Valley, the [Fraziers] coming afterward and taking up land not entered by Barker. Jim Frazier's home was at the east end of

Mendenhall Valley, and I think he had a direct trail down north toward the Barker Valley Falls. ... [He] had a house and barn on the far east end of Mendenhall Valley. I do not know whether this was his homestead entry or another tract bordering on the south side of the valley, not so far from the Mendenhall ranch houses. It is certain that he had made a homestead entry about the same time I made mine, but when Ranger Ed Bish came down here from Ventura County, he very soon set himself the task of trying to prove that every homesteader had made fraudulent entry. He succeeded in knocking out some entries, but Jim stuck and he was put to considerable expense defending his rights. It was said that Sister Maria contributed much of the expense money from her slender savings.

Marian Beckler writes [26]:

Over north of Malava were the Joseph R. Barkers, in Barker Valley. In the east end of Malava were Isaac G. Burnett, Benjamin F. La Rue, and James Frazier.

James Frazer was a justice for the Smith Mountain judicial township for many years, with George Cook as constable for some years [22]. Newspapers mention Frazier in this role in 1893, 1894, 1902, and 1906 [22,83].

In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 8, 1894, this item appeared [43]:

CONVICTED OF ADULTERY

A Country Dogberry Assumes High Judicial Powers.

Constable G. W. Cook of Malava, on the summit of Smith mountain, arrived in the city yesterday with Julio Rodriguez, who has been sentenced to one year in county jail in addition to a fine of \$800, for the crime of adultery. Rodriguez has a wife and two children and was a good husband and father up to two years ago, when he began to neglect his family. Not long ago he left home and set up housekeeping in the same neighborhood with a 16-year-old girl named Maria Los Angeles Trujillo, and his wife caused his arrest on the charge of adultery. Conviction and sentence followed.

His family, left in destitute circumstances, will be cared for by his brother Juan, who has provided for them for over a year past.

The question no doubt will be raised as to whether **Justice of the Peace Frazer** exceeded his authority in trying Rodriguez on so serious a charge as adultery. It is plain that, exalted as Justice Frazer is among the pines of Palomar, he is hardly as high as a superior court magistrate in the eyes of the law, and the friends of Rodriguez will no doubt at once bring the matter to the attention of the district attorney.

This newspaper article insulted Jim Frazier by calling him “Dogberry,” who is a character in Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing* and described in Wikipedia as a self-satisfied night constable with an inflated view of his own importance as the leader of a group of comically bumbling police watchmen.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 9, 1894, this item appeared [44]:

OUT OF JAIL

Rodriguez Released on a Writ of Habeas Corpus

Julio Rodriguez, the Mexican who was brought to the county jail Wednesday from Smith mountain under sentence of one year’s imprisonment and a fine of \$800, imposed by Justice of the Peace James Frazer for the crime of adultery, was taken before Judge Puterbaugh yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus issued at the instance of Attorney Utley, and based on a petition signed by Rodriguez, in which it was stated that Justice Frazer had no jurisdiction in the matter of trying the prisoner on the charge in question. Judge Puterbaugh lost no time in ordering the prisoner’s discharge, and unless Rodriguez returns to his former home he may not be re-arrested.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of February 22, 1894, this item appeared [45]:

REGULARLY COMMITTED

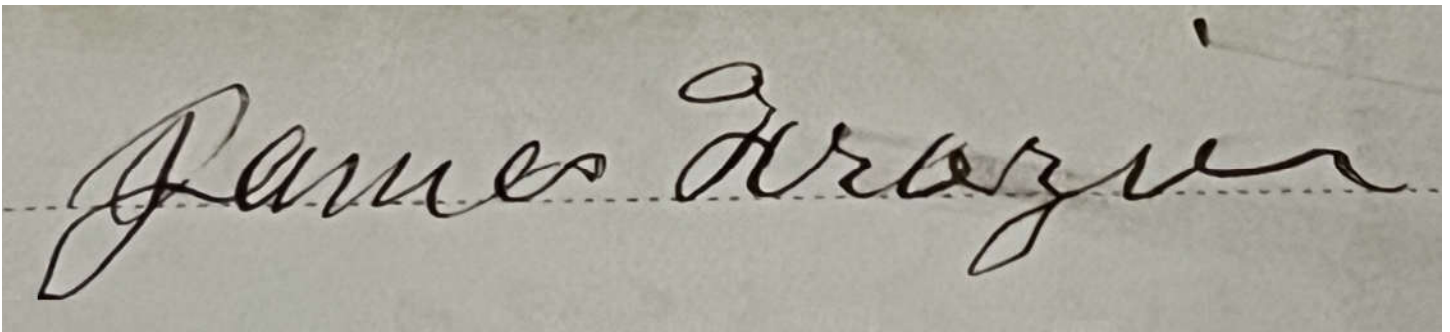
Julio Rodriguez to Be Tried by the Proper Tribunal.

Julio Rodriguez, who was sentenced some time ago by Justice Frazer of Smith mountain to serve one year in the county jail and pay a fine of \$800 for the crime of adultery, and who was subsequently released on a writ of habeas corpus upon the grounds that the justice exceeded his authority in the case, was returned to the county jail yesterday upon the same charge to await trial in the superior court.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of April 8, 1894, this item appeared [46]:

OFFENDERS SENTENCED

... Judge Puterbaugh also sentenced ... Julio Rodriguez, convicted of unlawful cohabitation, to nine months in the county jail.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "James Frazier" and is written on a piece of paper with horizontal lines. The ink is dark, and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat stylized.

James Frazier signature [17]

MARIA & LIZZIE FRAZIER arrive on Palomar with their mother LOUISA FRAZIER

James Frazier, age 56 and a native of Illinois and resident of Smith Mountain, had a marriage license issued on September 12, 1894, to wed Effie G. Smith, age 25 and a native of Indiana and resident of San Diego, and they were married that day [23,47,80]. In the San Diego Union of September 14, 1894, this item appeared [80]:

James Frazier, justice of the peace at Smith mountain, was married in this city Wednesday evening to Effie G. Smith of San Diego.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of September 12, 1896, this item appeared [79]:

Charles and Mary Smith, minors, have been adopted by James Frazier and wife, a decree having been signed yesterday by Judge Torrance.

Ed Davis writes [28]:

Attending Theo Bailey's campfires in the early days were a couple of modest retiring ladies, Maria and Lizzie Frazier, who had recently come to the mountain about 1895. Jim Frazier, an older brother living on Palomar, had recently lost his wife leaving him a little girl, so he wrote to his sisters to come and live in his home and help care for the child. They lived on a small farm in Illinois, and raised a few chickens and vegetables, but their principal source of income was from dressmaking. They were fine dressmakers, neat and thrifty, but complying with their brother's wishes, they sold all their property and with their mother came to California. Jim met them in San Diego and brought them up the mountain in his spring wagon.

In the meantime Jim had remarried, his wife had had two children, and the cabin was too small for the two families, and even so, the sisters were too independent to stay with them. They eventually found some vacant land and each filed on a homestead of 160 acres. Most of this land, located at the foot of the high peak which towered hundreds of feet above them, was covered with brush and rocks. Only a small piece could be worked -- in fact, it was so useless, nobody else would look at it twice. Anyway it provided a place where the women could have a home about a mile from Jim's place...

Jim Frazier, on his infrequent trips to Escondido, would bring up a few boards at a time and these sisters, totally unused to manual labor, packed these boards on their backs, one at a time, over a crooked, rocky trail, crossing arroyos choked with boulders, through heavy brush, to their home site. Carrying these boards was arduous work and necessitated frequent rests. With pick and shovel they removed many troublesome rocks from the trail, rolling those

they could not lift and trimming up the brush until their trail was greatly improved. They bought a horse, plow, tools, and cow and raised chickens. The sides were up, the door and window in place, but no roof. Half-way up to the peak above the house was a small grove of cedar trees a mile or two from the cabin and at least fifteen hundred feet above their little piece of land. How they ever discovered these trees far up this rocky slope is a mystery, but with axe and saw and ferow, every day they climbed this steep slope, cut down the cedar trees, sawed them in three foot sections, split them into shakes, and packed them on their backs down to their cabin. With these crude shakes, hewed from native timber by these two women, unused to heavy work, the roof was put in place and their home was safe from storms. After many weeks their little cabin built by their own hands was finished. Their mother died soon after reaching California.

During this time, once or twice a week, Maria would ride horseback to Bailey's place and sell a dozen or two eggs and a pat of butter to the campers and boarders. On nearing Bailey's, she would dismount out of sight so people would not see her astride, and hitch her horse before making her appearance. Maria being more robust, all outside work finally devolved upon her: building fences, erecting corrals for calves and pigs, plowing, cultivating, and going on errands. The heavy work of clearing the trail and building the cabin drew on their strength and vitality, but they asked no help or favors and received no assistance during all their life on Palomar. Lizzie, the younger sister, never very robust, had to give up outside work and gradually became paralyzed, owing to her early hardships, and thereafter was almost helpless in her rocking chair. Often, at night, in the safety of their cabin, they could hear the bloodchilling scream of a mountain lion far up the slope and the eerie yelping of coyotes nearer by, so Maria fitted herself with a rifle and ammunition. Any man coming to their cabin was met at the door by Maria with her rifle. As their stock increased, Maria had to look after the cattle, milk the cow, cut wood for the stove and do most of the simple house work.

They kept strictly to themselves and became almost like hermits, visiting no neighbors and never entertaining company. When

branding was to be done, they hired Indians to do that part of the work. In addition to other handicaps, Maria had to carry every drop of water used, in buckets from a tiny stream some distance away.

Catharine Wood writes [25]:

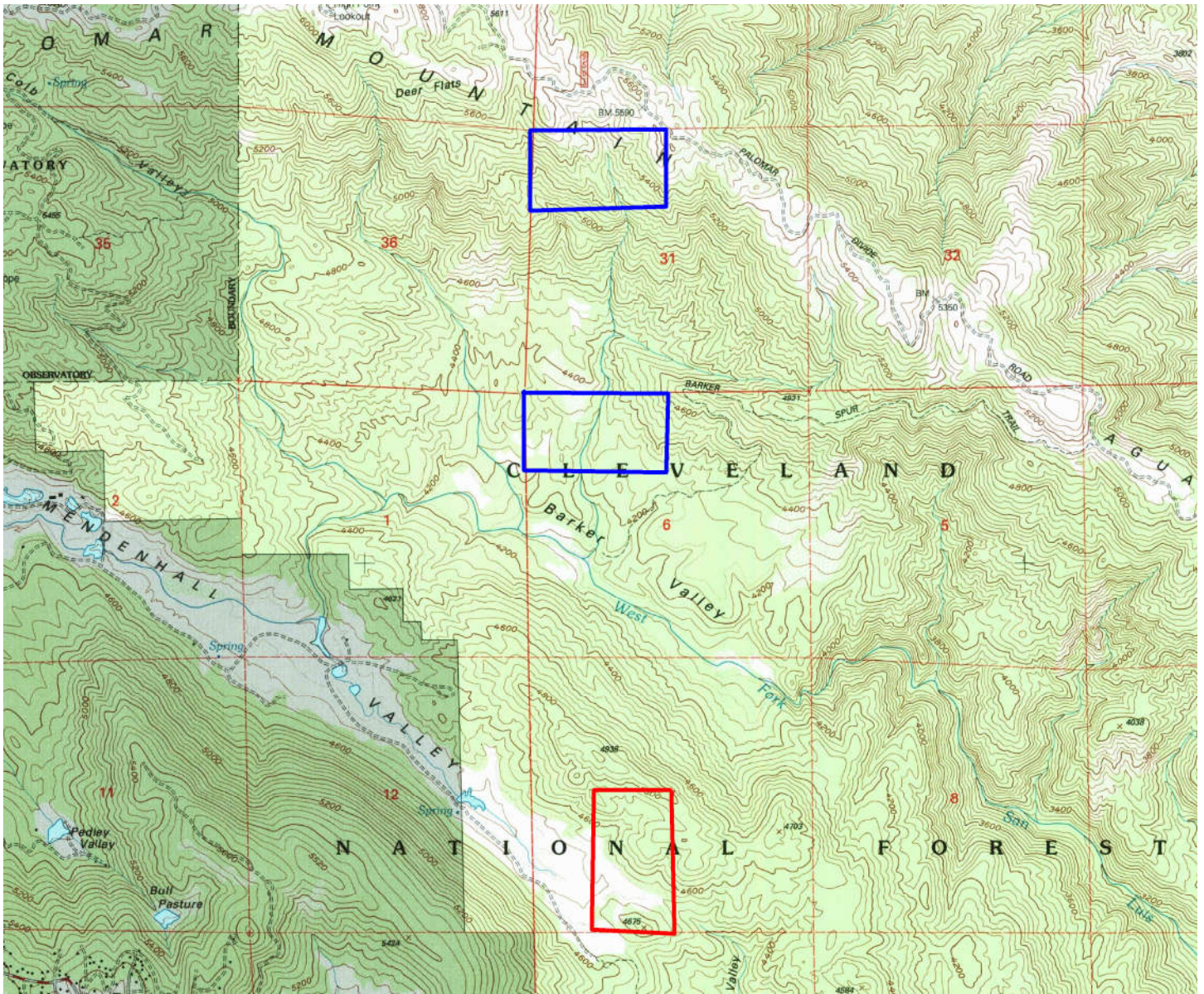
When [James Frazier's] wife died, his sisters came out from Illinois, expecting to keep house for him. Their mother insisted on coming too. Before they reached California, Jim had married a widow with two children, so when his mother and sisters arrived they decided to take up a homestead, renting a house until they could build. They erected a small cabin in Barker Valley with their own hands, and constructed a road to it. The girls were hard workers and sold eggs and butter to the hotels then in operation, and in neighboring towns. They also raised some cattle for beef, and eventually acquired something like a section of land. At first they sometimes joined their neighbors in picnics. Miss Maria had a Kodak, the first one on Palomar, with which she took some good pictures. She is said to have had a couple of chances to marry, but her sister objected. Meantime the mother passed away.

Marian Beckler writes [26]:

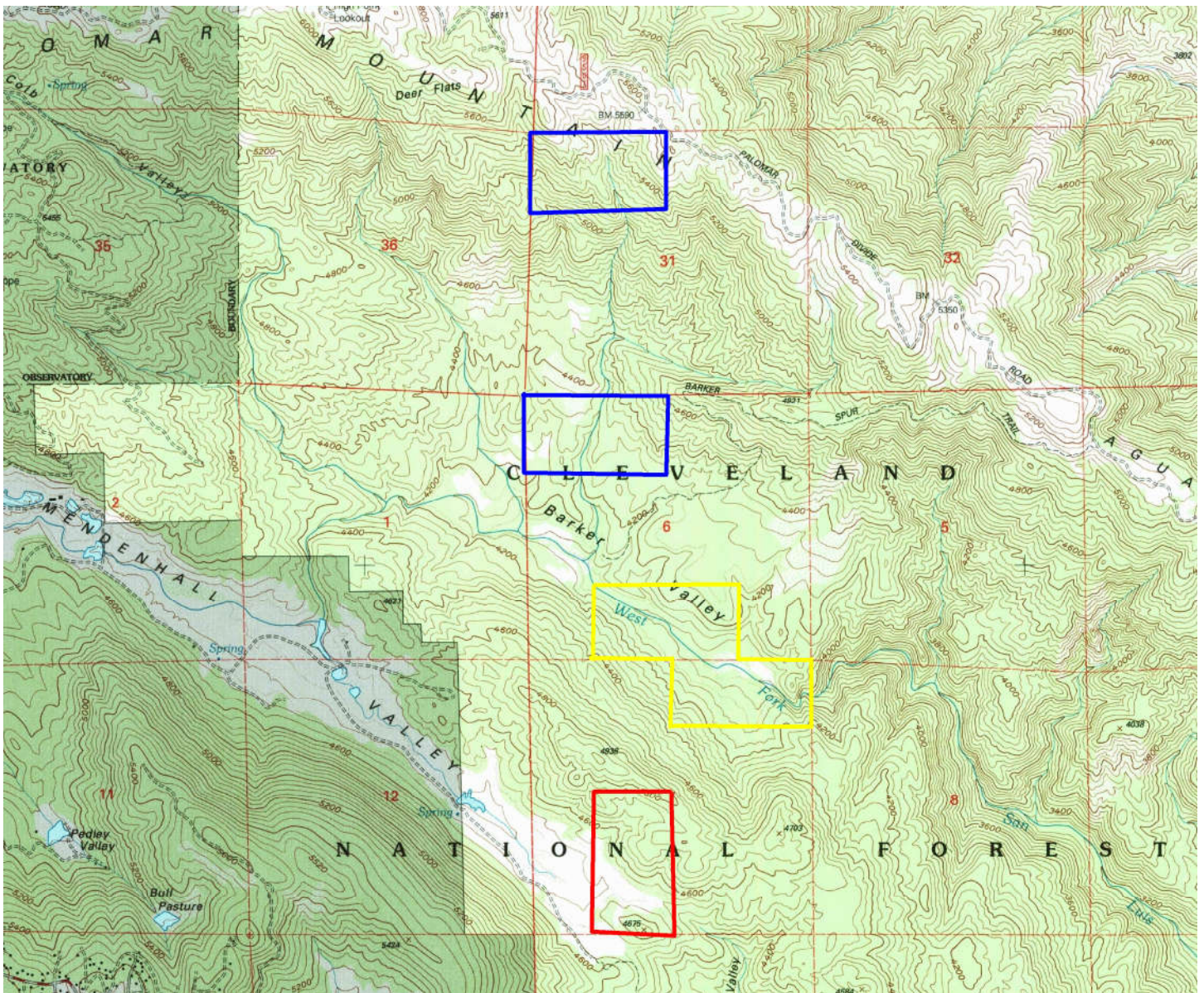
In the early nineties James Frazier had sent east for his mother and sisters to come and live with him. But before they reached here he had married a widow with two sons. The new arrivals went to live in the old [William Woolf] cabin, then they homesteaded in Barker Valley. ... At the time of her coming to the mountain Maria Frazier was a handsome young woman, with personality and sparkle. There was a romance and she would have married, but Miss Lizzie opposed it.

The Malava School, built in the 1870s, was east of Mendenhall Valley and northeast of Dyche Valley. The original log building was moved to make an addition to the George Cook home and a new schoolhouse was built. ... At that time the attendance averaged nine or ten children. There were the older Mendenhall children, the Frazier boys, Charles and Manning, Ida and Susie Cook, Emma Barker, and Manuel Dyche.

Maria and Lizzie Frazier proved up on their respective homestead lands in 1902, so five years earlier, they had moved onto that land in 1897 [32].



**Mariah Frazer's 1902 homestead of 164 acres in blue outline
with James Frazier's 1894 purchase of 80 acres in red outline
Overlaid on 1997 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory map**



**Lizzie Frazer's 1902 homestead of 160 acres in yellow outline
with Mariah Frazer's homestead of 164 acres in blue outline
and James Frazier's 1894 purchase of eighty acres in red outline**

James Frazier is listed as a ballot clerk for the Bear Valley Precinct (Valley Center) for an election to be held on November 3, 1896 [75]. Maria and Lizzie Frazier are listed along with James Frazier at Smith Mountain in San Diego regional directories for 1897-1899 [7,8].

Mother Louisa Frazier is not listed in those directories nor in the 1900 U.S. Census, so it's assumed she died before 1897; newspaper stories at the time of James Frazier's death said he would be buried on Palomar Mountain alongside his mother, so mother Louisa Frazier was buried on Frazier land [7,841,42].

David Charles Mendenhall writes [30]:

They may have been late-comers in the pioneering era, but Lizzie and Mariah [Frazier] certainly lived a Spartan life. For a while they had a cabin in a tiny meadow away back of the Barker Canyon, accessible only by buggy or wagon over a long, narrow and rocky “road.” About 1950 I remember seeing the remains of the cabin – then just rotted foundation logs, and a flowing spring from which the two ladies must have carried their water. Their brother was a ... [Civil War] pensioner. He farmed some and had a house of sorts at the far end of the Mendenhall Valley, some three or four miles from the girls’ place. He had dug a well and got water at the most unlikely place. It was right in the pass, where the terrain slopes away from it both ways. Most hand dug wells are not more than thirty feet deep so he must have struck a fault line to get enough water even for domestic use.

Marian Beckler writes [26]:

George Cook had the mail contract in 1897 and James Frazier in 1898. By then the mail was coming from San Diego via Escondido to Rincon. From Rincon the carrier brought it on horseback up the Trujillo Trail [a trail up the south side of Palomar Mountain before South Grade S6] ... Miss Maria began carrying the mail for the Jessee Post Office in 1898. She had the long, difficult ride up the Trujillo Trail. ... Eventually the Nellie and Jessee mails came up together to Nellie where the Jessee carrier picked it up. ... Later she had only the ride to Nellie. Even after the Jessee post office was discontinued she rode to Nellie for the mail. ... By 1904 so many people had moved away the Jessee Post Office was discontinued.

James Frazier received the Jessee postal commission on April 30, 1898 [82]. Ed Davis writes [28]:

... Maria took a mail contract, carrying the mail from Nellie to Jessee, a distance of ten miles on Palomar. During four years, she rode horseback in all kinds of weather, through pouring rains, driving sleet and deep snows. She wore divided skirts and an oilskin slicker, often riding long after dark to reach home. At all

places, she would dismount in the timber, evidently too modest to be seen riding astride.

David Charles Mendenhall writes [30]:

There were two post offices on the mountain then, Jessee and Nellie. The postal service delivered the mail to Jessee, near the east end of the mountain, and it was up to someone on the mountain to forward it to Nellie, a distance of eight or nine miles, so Mariah got the job. Early morning she mounted her mule, rode two miles to Jessee, got the mail there and went to Nellie, then took that mail back to Jessee, then home. She was paid \$1.00, which might have been adequate in summer, but during winter snow and blizzard you might wonder. She carried her own lunch, which was a can of beans.

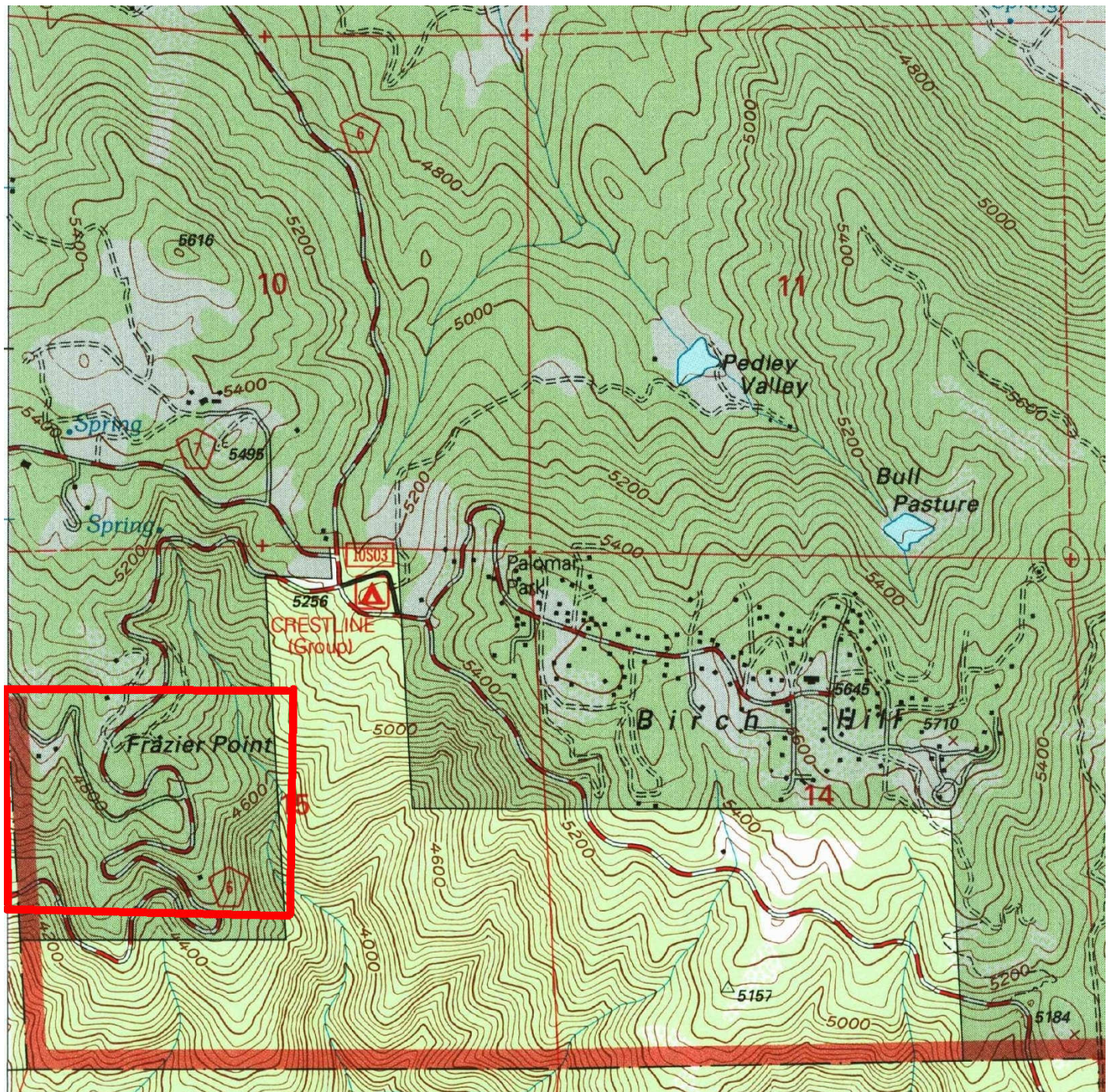
The San Diego Union newspaper of October 5, 1899, reported on the Palomar Mountain fire of September 1899, saying this about the Frazier women [48]:

... The home of the Misses Frazer on the northeastern part of the mountain was saved by the heroic efforts of the Cook brothers. The Misses Frazer live alone on that part of the mountain, and by hard work have brought a fine ranch out of the wilderness. Each took up a government claim, and with pick and shovel built a road three miles long down the mountain into the valley where their property is located. They make a living by raising cattle, chickens, and bees, and one of them carries the mail between Nellie and Jessee postoffices. The fire swept directly toward their place, and had it not been for the work of the Cook brothers in backfiring, the premises would undoubtedly have been devastated. ...

In the **1900 U.S. Census**, **James Frazier** was living on Smith Mountain (Palomar Mountain) at age 62 (born April 1838, Illinois), with wife Effa G. at age 32 (born September 1867, Indiana); they were married in 1898 and had sons Chers at age 10 (born March 1890, Kentucky) and Manning at age 8 (born April 1892, Indiana). Chers is Charles [26,79]. Living with them was **Mariah Frazer** at age 37 (single and born November 1862, Illinois) and **Lizzie Frazer** at age 36 (single and born January 1864, Illinois). Mariah Frazer is listed as a mail carrier for the year March 1901 to March 1902 in a San Diego County directory [36].

FRAZIERS AND FRAZIER POINT

It was reported in the San Diego Union newspaper on August 12, 1901, that James R. Newman had sold the Frazier Point property of 160 acres on the south slope of Palomar Mountain to Mariah Frazer [35]. This property was homesteaded by William J. Morrison, who was granted the land on April 30, 1896 [35].



Mariah Frazer's 1901 purchase of Frazier Point
Overlaid on 1997 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory map

Marian Beckler writes [26]:

On the Highway to the Stars, a few curves below the spring, is Frazier Point. One of the buildings still remains of the Frazier sisters' winter home below the snow line. From here, each spring, they would trek back to their ranch at the east end of Mendenhall Valley, with their stock, a distance of nearly ten miles. Maria was tall, gaunt, weathered from hard work, preferred to walk rather than ride her horse. Miss Lizzie was crippled from arthritis. After the painful trip back to the home ranch she would resume her housekeeping, moving about on a chair, while Miss Maria attended to the outside. There is still the floor of the house, and the stove where Miss Lizzie made biscuits and other good things remembered by the Mendenhalls as children. ...And there is still the old apple orchard on the hillside, and the old well, filled in -- the unmarked grave of Maria Frazier.

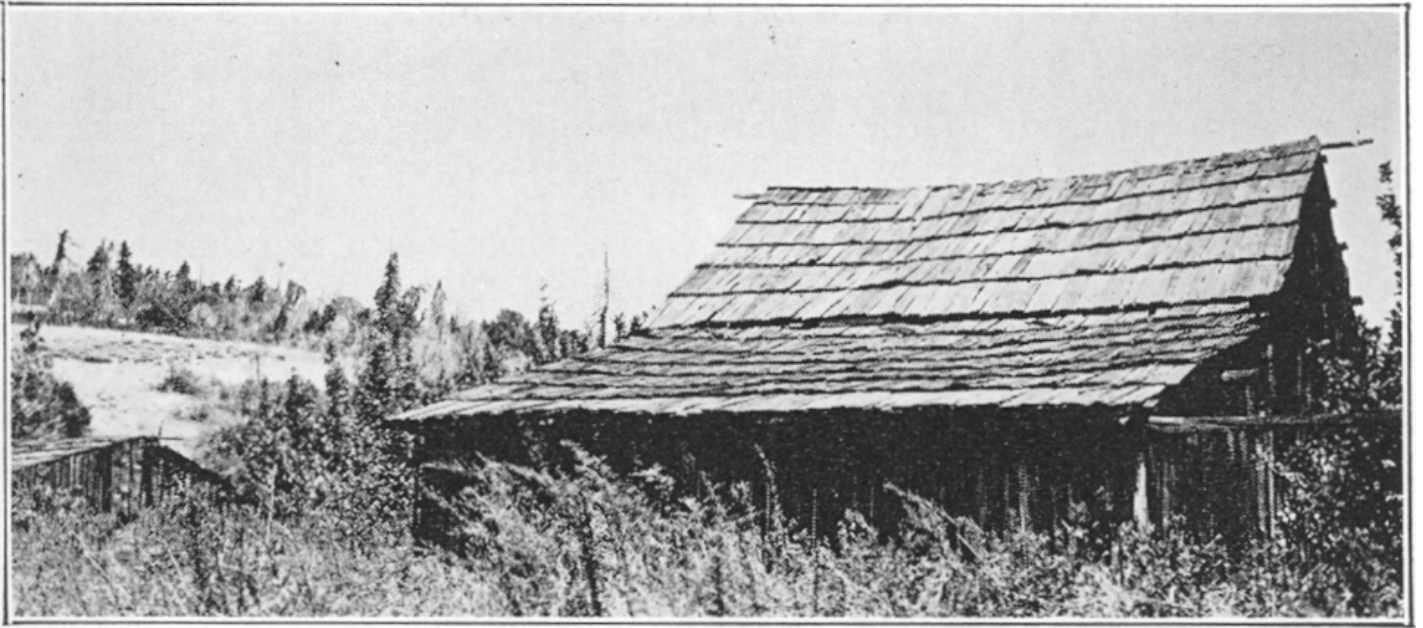
Catharine Wood writes [25]:

The Frazier family gave their name to scenic Frazier Point, around which the south grade winds, and to a canyon-like valley included in Barker Valley. James Frazier, commonly called Jim Frazier, had settled on the Point with his invalid wife, purchasing the property already improved from a man named Morrison [PB: Mariah Frazier purchased it from James R. Newman, not William J. Morrison who had homesteaded the land]. Jim Frazier's wife left him before long, and brother and sisters were once more together. They lived on the Point in winter, and in the valley during the summer. One of the sisters, Miss Lizzie, had become very badly crippled, so much so that in order to move about, she had to hitch herself along in a chair.

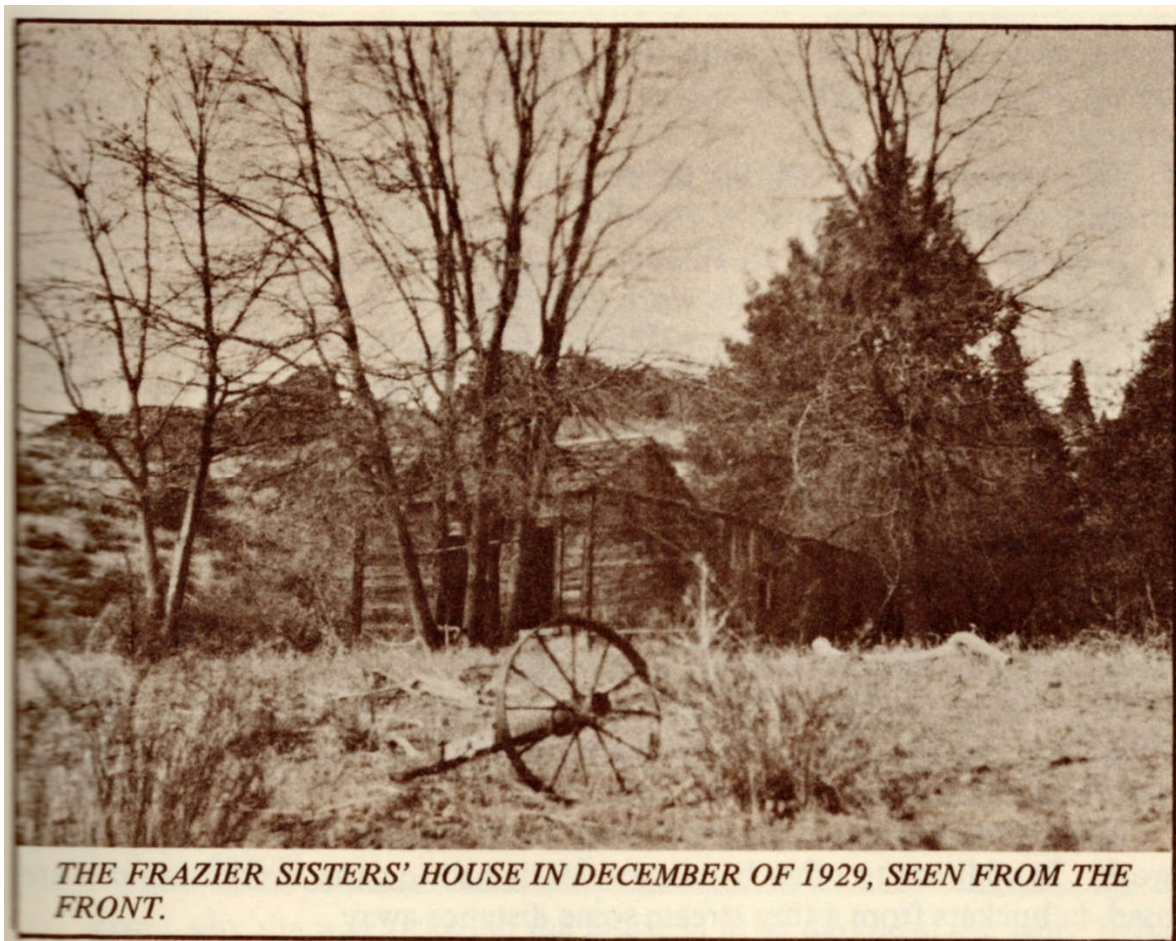
Ed Davis writes [28]:

They lived in this tiny cabin [in Barker Valley] ten years and then bought the Morrison ranch on the west slope of Palomar, which afforded more range for their growing herd of beef cattle. There was a cabin and small barn on the place, and, it was about this time that Jim Frazier and his wife separated.

Catharine Wood and Ed Davis have some dates off; the Frazier Point land was purchased by Maria Frazier in 1901 [35], and Effie G. Frazier divorced James Frazier in 1907 [49].



Old farm building of hand-hewn cedar at Frazier Point (lost in fire) Catharine Wood photo [25]



THE FRAZIER SISTERS' HOUSE IN DECEMBER OF 1929, SEEN FROM THE FRONT.

Ed Davis photo

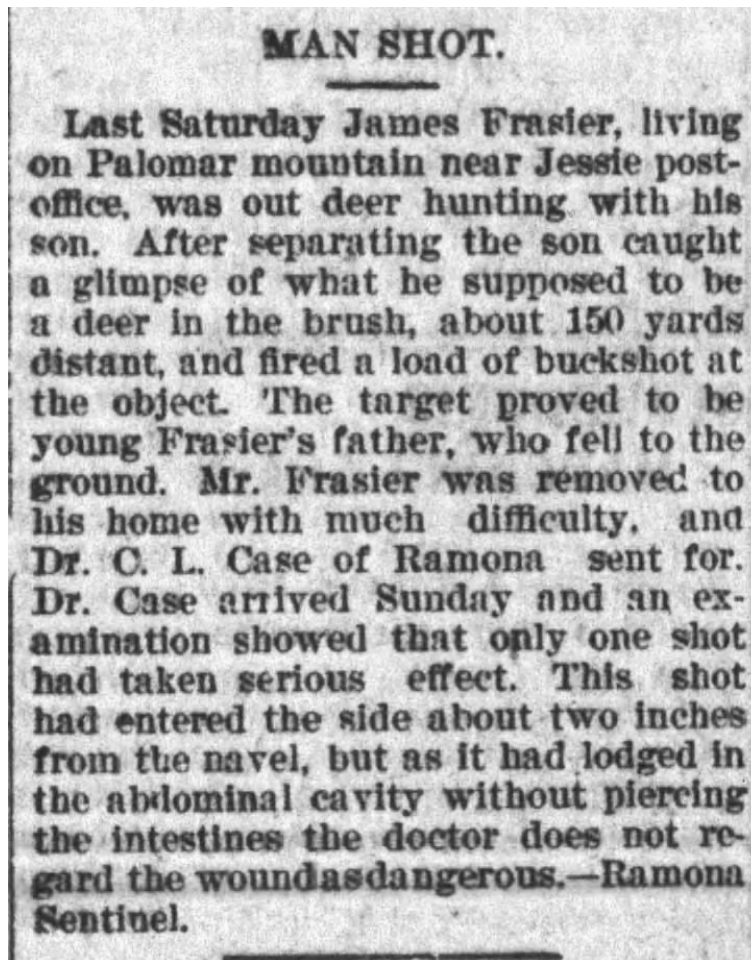


Ed Davis photo

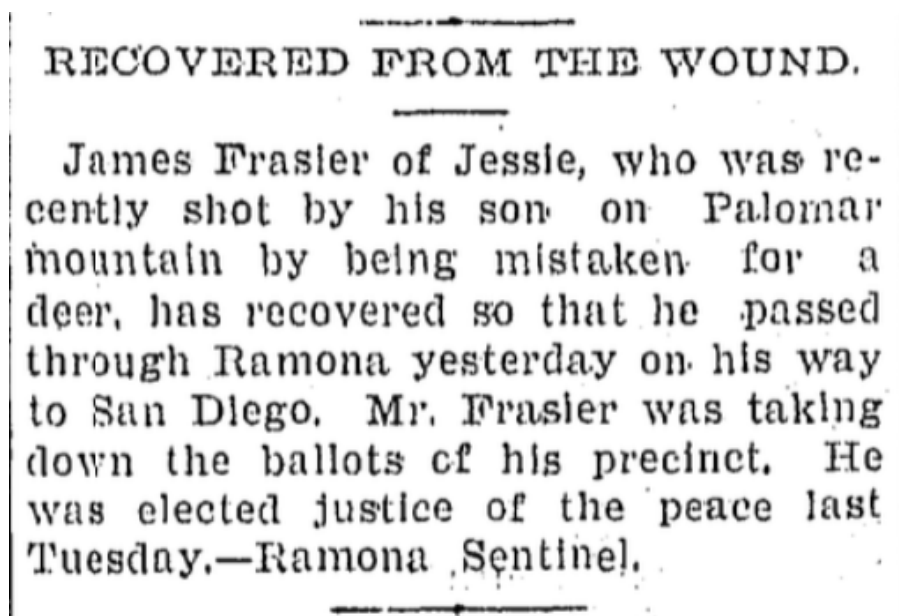
Ed Davis writes [28]:

Twice, late in life, while cultivating, [Maria] stumbled and fell and the mules dragged her to the house, she hanging on the lines. If Maria was on foot and saw a man coming on horseback, she would dodge in the brush and hide like a wild thing. Knowing her peculiarities, no one paid any attention and she was never molested.

In the San Diegan Sun of November 4, 1902, this item appeared [18]:



In the San Diego Union of November 10, 1902, this item appeared [76]:



In the San Diego Weekly Union of January 7, 1904, this item appeared [81]:

MOUNTAIN LIONS DESTROY THIRTY-FOUR GOATS

On December 22, two mountain lions entered the goat pens of James Frazier, near Jessee, this county, and killed thirty-four goats, and two dogs which were tied to the pen fence.

The wind was blowing so hard that, although the pen was but eighty yards from the house, the herders did not hear the commotion, and the lions escaped.

San Diego Weekly Union, January 7, 1904, page 9, column 7

In his 1904 diary for March 18 and 19, Robert Asher wrote [87]:

Miss (Maria) Fraz(i)er having gone on Mr. (Winbert) Fink's bond for carrying mail to Jessee, is obliged to carry the mail herself until someone is appointed in Mr. Fink's stead.

In the Escondido Times newspaper of August 11, 1905, this item appeared [50]:

James Frazier, who was down from Smith mountain Wednesday, and made a pleasant call at the TIMES office, furnishes us a couple of singular snake stories. In crossing some plowed ground on his place one night last week, he stepped squarely on the head of a three-foot rattler; he was unaware of the occurrence at the time, as it was after dark, but discovered the dead reptile in his path the following morning. Mr. Frazier's sister, who also has a ranch on the mountain, set a trap for squirrels last Monday morning, and in the evening discovered a rattler fastened in it. It had nine of the regulation rattles, and on closer inspection she was surprised to find an additional tail of about an inch in length, with two small rattles, growing from the reptile's back just above the main tail.

Voter registers for San Diego County list James Frazier in the Palomar precinct for 1902 and 1904 (both Jesse), and 1906 (Nellie), with age of 63, 66 and 68 respectively. The San Diego Union newspaper of December 29, 1904, mentions that James Frazier is a clerk of the Palomar school district [51].

Robert Asher writes [27]:

[Jim Frazier] was a keen mountain lion hunter, and he once told me that the country about the [Barker Valley] Falls was alive with lions. If I remember rightly, he had brought down between twenty or thirty of the varmints in that one locality.

In the Escondido Times newspaper of January 26, 1906, this item appeared [52]:

James Frazier, of Palomar mountain, killed a mountain lion on his ranch last Sunday morning measuring six feet and four inches in length. The animal, which had evidently come after Mr. Frazier's goats, was treed by the dogs, after nearly killing one of them, and the rancher brought him to earth with a rifle.

Justice James Frazier of the Palomar township court presided over an infamous dispute on Palomar Mountain in 1906. The San Diego Union newspaper of June 25, 1906, published this story [72]:

FIGHT BETWEEN YOUTH AND OLD AGE

Bailey, a Former Russ Student, is Fined \$25 for Battery Upon S.J. Mendenhall – Apologizes in Court

Milton Bailey, aged 21 years, a Russ student of 1905, and who played fullback on the Russ football team for two seasons, was fined \$25 in the Palomar township court last week, being convicted of battery upon S.J. Mendenhall, aged 62, a cattleman of Smith Mountain. The assault occurred June 2 in front of the Smith Mountain post office. There had been bad feeling between the two families and a wordy altercation ensued. Young Bailey, according to the evident, ended his part of the dispute by saying: "I'm a liar, then, am I?" or words to that effect. Old Mr. Mendenhall assented to his proposition, whereupon Bailey struck him a blow above the

ear which jarred him considerably and aroused his fighting blood. The sexagenarian began to “mix it,” and in the scrimmage ducked his head, receiving a chance blow in the mouth. Two teeth were knocked out. Bailey went to Bear Valley [Valley Center] and told Justice Allen what he had done. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10. The district attorney, however, was advised, and information for mayhem was lodged against the youth. This was quashed later, and a complaint for battery sworn to and the summons issued. Bailey was defended by Attorney Willard of Escondido, while Deputy District Attorney Schoonover represented the people. **Justice Frazier** examined witnesses at his home, the chief witness being Mail Carrier Jacoby, and entertained a stipulation in settlement of the case. Pursuant to this agreement, Bailey paid a fine of \$25 and apologized to Mr. Mendenhall in open court. The two agreed to give up hostilities. Friends of young Bailey in this city say he must have had strong provocation for the battery, for a Russ he bore a good reputation and was known for his sunny disposition.

In the Escondido Times newspaper of September 21, 1906, this item appeared [71]:

James Frazier was down from Palomar on Friday of last week with a load of fine apples of the King variety, and left a fine sample at the TIMES office. He has the Geo. Cook ranch this year and the apples were grown there.

In the Escondido Times newspaper of December 14, 1906, this item appeared [70]:

Thomas Frazier, a brother, and Ira Frazier, a nephew of James Frazier, of Palomar were arrivals Monday and will visit Mr. Frazier for a few weeks on the mountains. The brothers had not met before for almost 30 years and the meeting was a very pleasant one indeed.

In regional directories for 1906-1913, James Frazier is listed at Nellie, sometimes as a rancher, and Maria Frazier is listed with no occupation; Elizabeth Frazier is not listed [9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16].

Robert Asher writes [27]:

Maria Frazier used to come up to [Clark] Cleaver's from her Frazier Point home each fall when the Hungarian prunes were ripe, provided there was a crop, and make dozens of jars of prune jam, which Cleaver would stow away out of sight against the day of need. Then he would bring them out one at a time just before the old jar became entirely empty.



**Jim Frazier, with his mules Jack & Jinny, in front of Smith & Douglass Hotel,
14 July 1906.** Robert Asher photo

On the above photo, Robert Asher writes [27]:

Frazier had two mules -- Jack and Jinny -- and a buckboard. I have a photo showing Jim and the outfit in front of the Smith and Douglass Hotel, Jim with his trusty six-shooters upraised and pointing north.

Robert Asher writes [27]:

Another time Jim Frazier took me down to Escondido in his buckboard. We went down the old, old road, down the south side of the mountain. The present Highway to the Stars [S6] cuts

through the old road in a place. The old road was pretty rough and in one place rather dangerous, but we made it all right. Jim said that we were the first to go down that way in a wagon for many years and we may have been the last. However, I had been over it afoot quite a number of times. Arriving at Escondido, Jim put up at a feed yard. There were two or three small cabins in the northeast corner of the yard and he told me that I had better get a bed in one of the cabins -- cost only two bits and just as good as at the hotel. I remember that Father La Pointe, a Catholic priest whose work lay mostly with the Indians, was also a guest [Edmund La Pointe]. I found him a very interesting talker. When the time came for me to prove up on my homestead at San Diego, James Frazier and Milton Bailey were the only two of my four published witnesses who had taken the trouble to be on hand. When I came to pay him for his trouble, his charge was very reasonable considering the long trip from his home on Palomar.

In the Escondido Times newspaper of January 11, 1907, this item appeared [69]:

Thomas and Ira Frazier took the train Saturday for their home in Rookwood, Illinois. Thomas is a brother of James Frazier, of Palomar mountain, and he and his nephew had been visiting the latter for a month or more.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of July 9, 1907, this item appeared [68]:

Effie G. Frazier is granted a final decree of divorce from James Frazier

In the Escondido Times newspaper of November 29, 1907, this item appeared [67]:

Killed a Mountain Lion.

Last Friday night a mountain lion killed two fine porkers belonging to G. W. Cook of Palomar, and got away with a large portion of one of the animals. Mr. Cook the next morning sent for James Frazier of Valley Center, and together they started on the trail of the lion, following it steadily Saturday and Sunday, and on Monday morning about 10 o'clock the big cat was located and

cornered, and a well-directed shot from Mr. Frazier's rifle killed it. The lion measured 7 feet 6 inches from tip to tip and would have weighed easily over 200 pounds. It is something to be thankful for that the monster has done no greater damage than the killing of two hogs.

On June 23, 1908, the San Diego Union reported on the East Grade [86]:

WANT STAGE LINE BETWEEN RESORTS

As Preliminary Step Citizens Will Petition Supervisors for Good Roads.

Warner Springs, June 22. – As one of the preliminary steps for the establishment of an automobile or other stage line between here and Palomar mountain, a petition has been circulated and will soon be presented to the supervisors for the construction of a first-class highway between the two points, including the several miles of country between the springs and the head of the San Luis Rey valley. Those interested in the opening of the road include S.J. Mendenhall and sons, W.C. Frick, G.W. Cook, Bailey Bros, proprietors of the Palomar mountain resort; Clark Cleaver, Jas. Brazier (sic, Frazier) and Frazier sisters. It is stated that rights of way have been granted. The territory is in the third supervisorial district.

In the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate newspaper of December 3, 1909, it is noted that James Frazer of Palomar passed through town with a load of twenty-five turkeys which he took to San Diego and will have twenty-five more in two weeks [66].

In the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate newspaper of April 8, 1910, this item appeared [65]:

EXPERIENCE ON PALOMAR WITH BIG LION

James Frazier Finds Tracks In Snow and Follows Them

THRILLING TIME

Infuriated Beast When Wounded Makes Two Attempts to Leap on Pursuer

After an exciting chase of about five miles James Frazier of Palomar mountain was successful in killing another large mountain lion last Saturday. When near his home Mr. Frazier found the tracks of the beast in the ten inches of snow that covered the mountain last week and accompanied by his two dogs took up the trail. Before long the lion was discovered crouched in a tree. After three shots the lion dropped dead but not until it had twice fallen to the ground and leaped, and today Mr. Frazier is proudly exhibiting the scalp and shin to his believing and unbelieving friends. In telling of his encounter with the lion, Mr. Frazier said: "I aimed at his breast but the ball struck him several inches to the rear. This caused him such pain that I was in danger, for mountain lions can leap with east 30 or 40 feet and this brute meant to fight me. In attempting to fasten his claws on the limb to get force from which to spring, he slipped and fell to the ground, a distance of perhaps 15 feet. In an instant he was on his feet and in another he had leaped into the tree again. "I felt that I must be quick or he would be on top of me for there is no more infuriated animal than a wounded mountain lion, so quick as a flash I fired. The lion roared and seemed crouched as if to spring on me only about 40 feet away, but he again fell but no sooner touched the ground than he leaped into the tree again. I fired again and this time he fell dead. I had shot him twice in the side and the last time through the ear."

In the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate newspaper of December 23, 1910, it is noted that James Frazer of Palomar brought a load of turkeys and a Christmas tree to Escondido Monday [64].

In the **1910 Census** for the Palomar Judicial Township, Cleveland National Forest, **James Frazier** (age 71 and born 1839, Illinois), was divorced and living on Palomar. **Maria Frazer** (age 48 and born 1862, Illinois) was single and living on Palomar with household member **Elizabeth Frazer** (age 46).

Louis Salmons said this about the Fraziers [37]:

I remember the Frazier sisters.... They were very peculiar... they were nice, well-raised people from Illinois. And their brother had written 'em to come out. He had a place on the mountain and they was going to come out and keep house for him. And then he married some woman just after that, and so when they came out they took up some land and started in working. And one of them was a tall, regular – like a man. But the other one couldn't stand the work, so she finally had sciatica rheumatism and sat in a chair for years. The oldest one's name was Maria; the small one was Lizzie... they had 75 or a hundred head of cattle there. ... they had some hogs and their brother sold their bacon. And then somebody milked ten or fifteen cows. His brother didn't live here with them, but he was around them. He'd come around once in a while. He lived all around. He was there with them part of the time, and part of the time he was over on another place they had. His wife left him years before that. Well she - her hogs used to come over to my place in the valley and she had some hogs over there. And she'd sit all day, generally at our place. My wife'd cook dinner for her and had ... We all liked her. That'd be Maria. She wanted to take these hogs home. So I says why I'd saddle up and help her. So I saddled up a horse and helped her take these hogs way over beyond the Dyche Valley within a half mile of her house. And they were going along good, so I turned around and went back. But as she left the house, she told my wife, she said, "If you see the buzzards flying low, come over." She had a hunch that something was going to happen to her, I know.

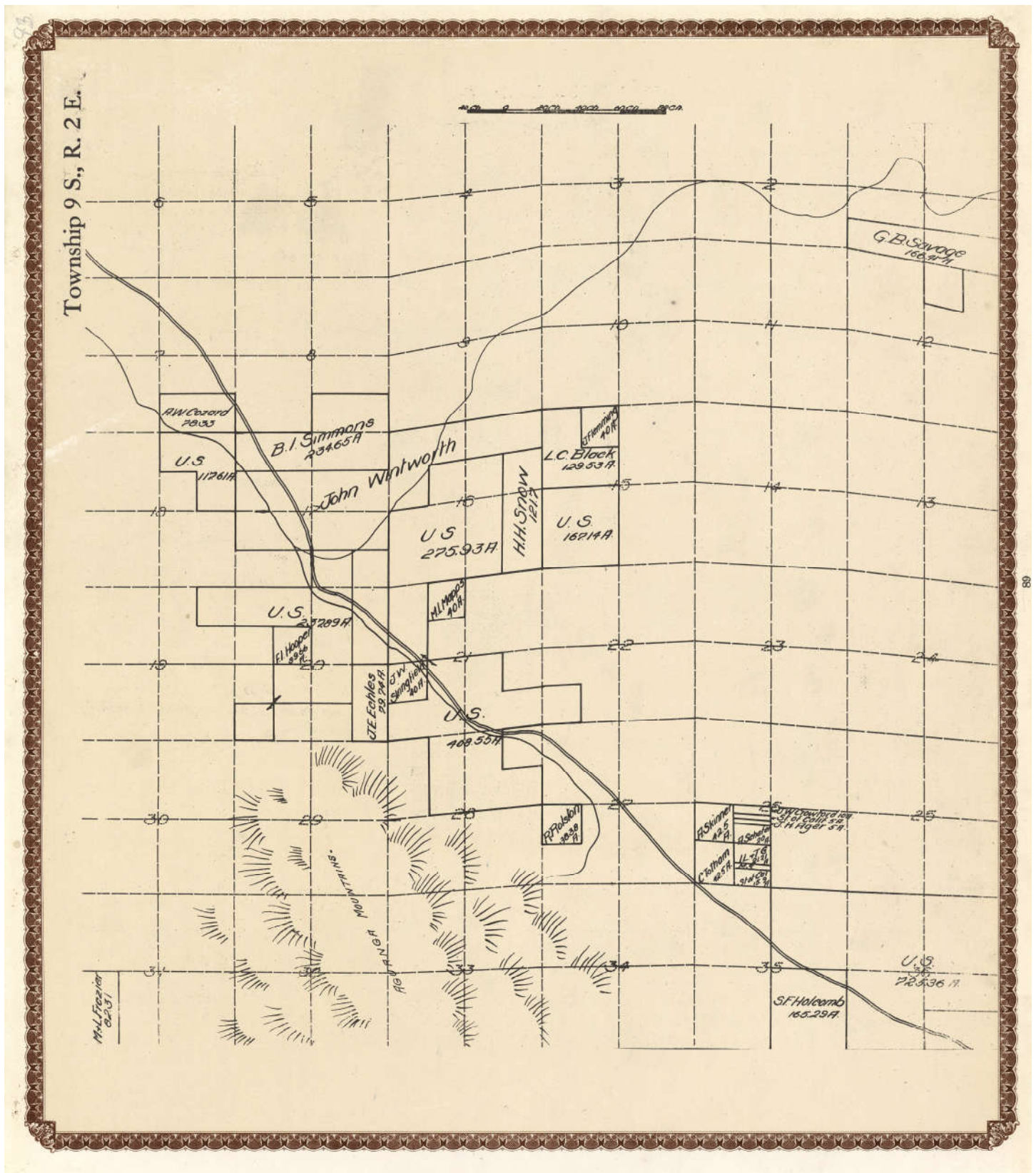
In an interview conducted by Edgar F. Hastings with Adalind S. Bailey in 1959, Hastings writes [38]:

She knew the Frazier sisters, they 'were very interesting women, very fine women.' Maria and Lizzie came from a small town in Oregon, were seamstresses there. Lizzie carried mail for a while from Rincon on horseback.

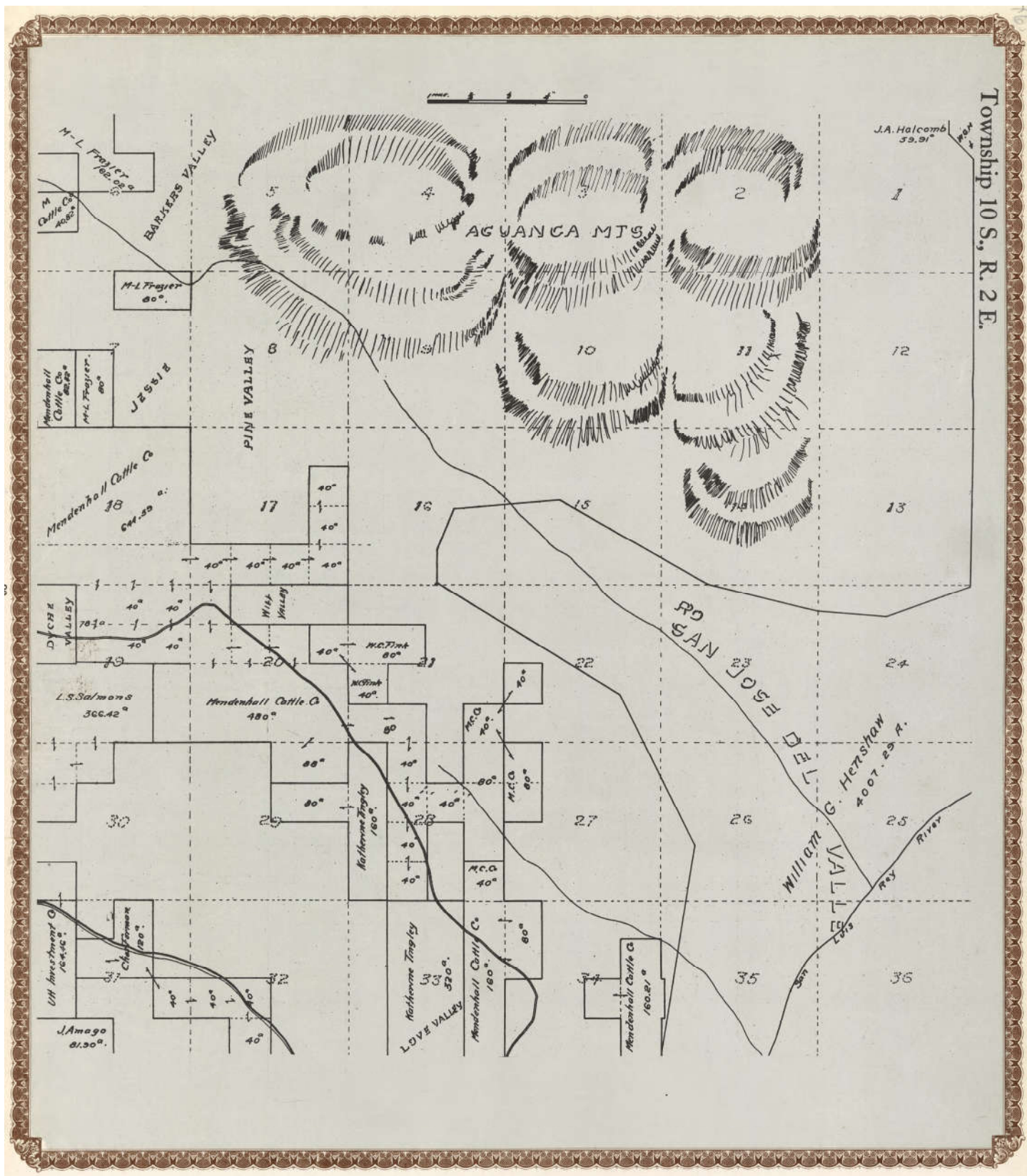
They had two places; one on the main grade now, and one over in the valley not far from Mendenhall Valley, a small place, ran

cattle, cut their own wood. Came to Palomar in their forties. Adalind came in 1911 and the Fraziers had already been there a long time. 'They were very fine women; everyone liked them and admired them. They took care of themselves and they did hard work and were independent. That's what they wanted to be.'

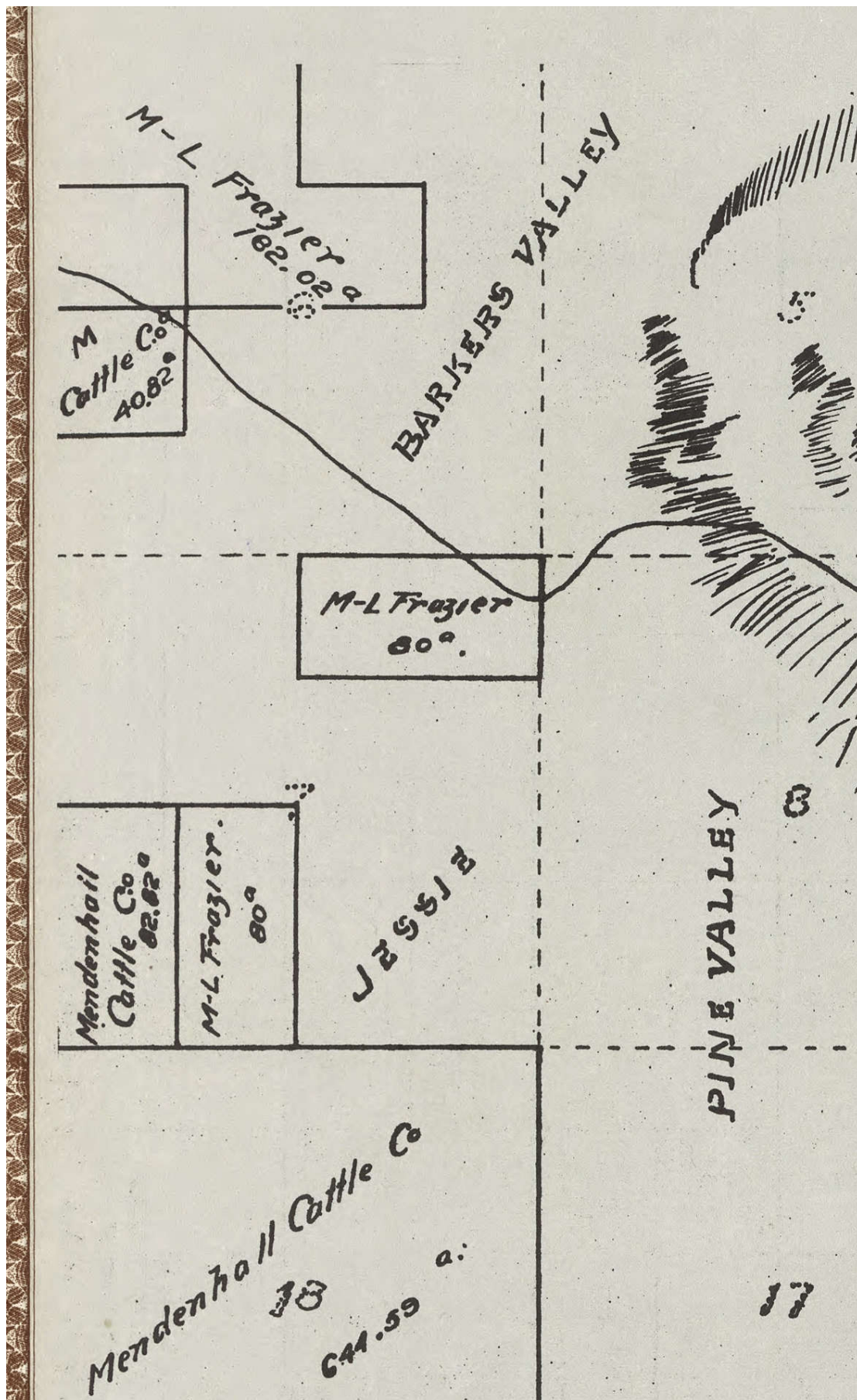
The Frazier's land on Palomar Mountain in 1912 [34]



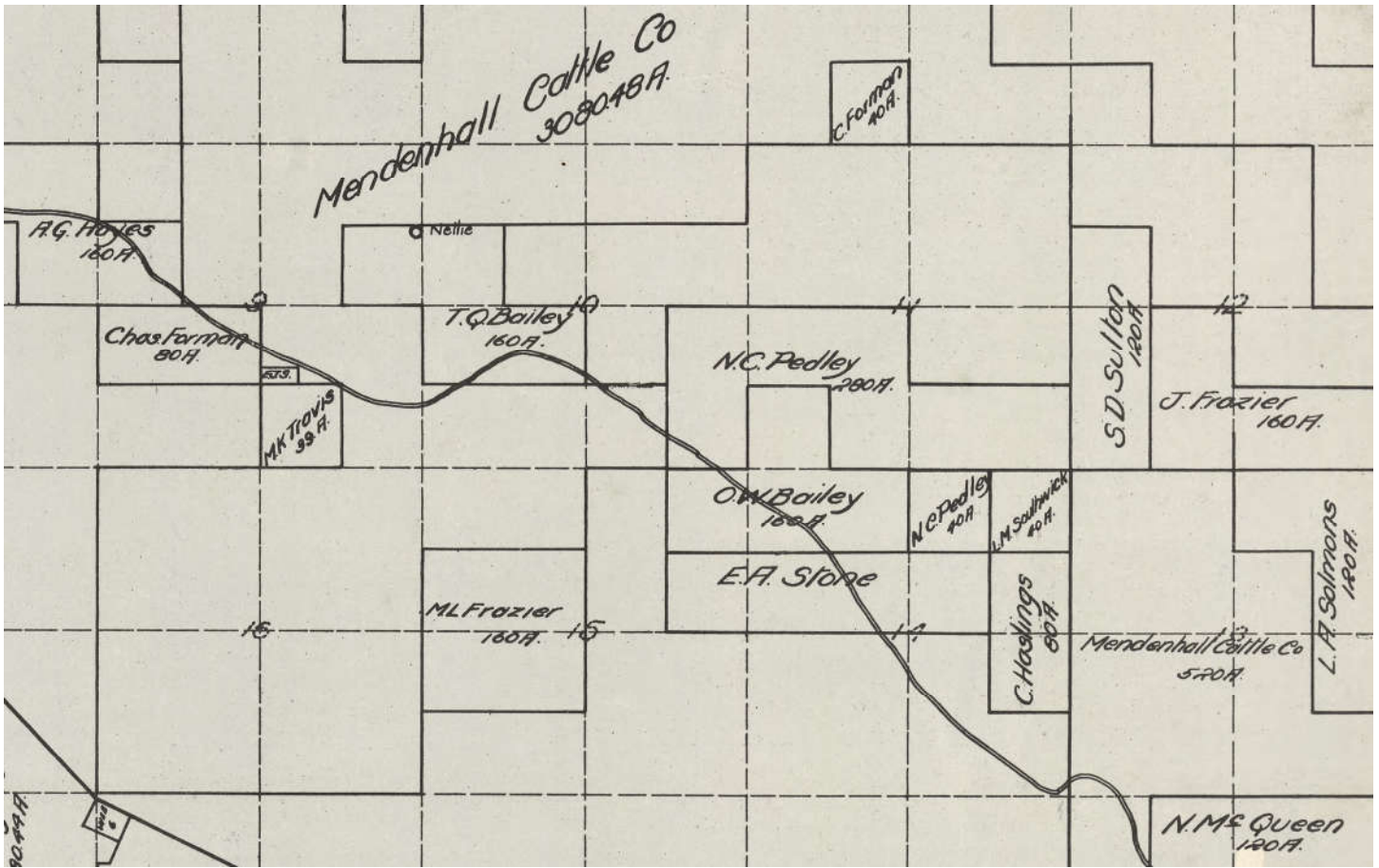
c1912 Township 9S R2E plat map showing Frazier land at lower left [34]



c1912 Township 10S R2E plat map showing Frazier land at upper left [31]



A crop of the above map showing location of Maria and Lizzie Frazier's land in Barker and Mendenhall valleys.



A crop of the above map showing James Frazier's land in Mendenhall Valley and showing Maria Frazier's Frazier Point land, which is at lower left.

DEATH OF JAMES FRAZIER

Catharine Wood writes [25]:

One day Jim was preparing to drive Miss Lizzie across the mountain. She was in the wagon. Fortunately they had not started, for the brother dropped dead.

In the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper of May 31, 1913, this item appeared [41]:

WAS A GREAT OLD MAN OF THE HILLS

INTERESTING LIFE WAS THAT OF JAMES FRAZIER WHO
DROPPED DEAD FRIDAY

Returning Saturday morning from the inquest of James Frazier, Frank G. Thompson, the undertaker, brings the details of the sudden death of this old pioneer, brief mention of which was made in Friday's Daily Times-Advocate. Mr. Frazier died almost without warning of acute dilatation of the heart. He and his sister had drawn by hand a wagon from the barn to the house and the exertion is thought to have been the immediate cause of death. They were preparing to move from their winter home on the sunny side of Palomar mountain to their summer home on the other side.

The deceased was 75 years of age. He came to this county 25 years ago and was a typical old man of the hills. It is said of him that he had killed more mountain lions, wildcats and such game than any man in Southern California. He was a G.A.R. [Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Union Army veterans of the Civil War] having gone to the war from his native state, Illinois. About twenty years ago he was joined her by his two sisters, Maria and Ethel Frazier, the latter being an invalid. The three made their home in the mountains, where they are widely [known] and beloved. The funeral was held Saturday afternoon, burial being made beside the grave of Mr. Frazier's mother.

In the Los Angeles Times newspaper of June 1, 1913, this “Escondido Briefs” item appeared [42]:

ESCONDIDO, May 31 – James Frazier, an aged man, a pioneer rancher of the Escondido country, dropped dead while at work in the dooryard of his home in Palomar mountain yesterday. A Coroner’s inquest, held last evening by County Coroner Bell, found that death was due to natural causes. The body will be buried on the mountain by the side of the body of his mother. Frazier, whose age was about 70, has lived on the mountain a quarter of a century with the two maiden sisters. The sisters have done most of the ranching, Frazier having been occupied with the trucking to and from market.

In the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate newspaper of June 13, 1913, this item appeared [63]:

COMES ON ACCOUNT OF DEATH OF HIS UNCLE

Ira Frazier, of Rockwood, southern Illinois, arrived Thursday afternoon, summoned by the recent death of his uncle the late James Frazier, who dropped dead Friday, May 30, at his home in the Palomar. The younger Frazier will go to the Frazier home in the Palomar mountains and spend two or three months with his aunts, both of whom are well along in years and one of whom is an invalid. The visitor could not come in time for the funeral.

Marian Beckler writes about the Frazier sisters [26]:

When James Frazier died they moved into his house at the east end of Mendenhall Valley.

David Charles Mendenhall writes [30]:

In due time the brother died and the girls moved over to his house, which was somewhat more convenient and closer to other people.

Catharine Wood writes [25]:

After [James Frazier's death] the two sisters, who were well thought of by all their neighbors, carried on alone. They seemed to become afraid of people, especially men, and when Miss Maria, the able-bodied sister was away working, the blinds were drawn and the doors locked, as she was afraid someone might harm the crippled sister. Modern conveniences were lacking, and water had to be carried from a spring some distance away. One day when both were in the house, the ceiling caught fire from the over-heated stove pipe. Miss Maria grabbed a pan of milk and extinguished the blaze. When the excitement subsided, Miss Lizzie, who had not been able to walk for months, was found outside the house. No one, even Miss Lizzie herself, could explain how she was able to accomplish the feat.

Ed Davis writes [28]:

One time Mrs. Louis Salmons [Hodgie Salmons] called on the sisters at ... [Frazier Point] and found the door and windows closed tight and the shades pulled down, as if there was nobody at home. She knocked and received no response; then she called, giving her name, and Lizzie hitched her chair to the door and opened it. Asked why she was locked in the house in utter darkness, she said: "When Maria goes off, she closes the house and locks everything up, including me, fearing some man will come and kill me." If any man came near the house, Maria always came to the door with a rifle in her hands. She was never known to shoot anybody or even to threaten, but she was always ready. At one time the roof of their cabin, dry as tinder, caught fire from the smoke pipe of their stove while Maria was cooking dinner. There was not a drop of water in the house. The spring was two hundred or more feet up the canyon back of the house, and Maria carried all the water for domestic use. There was no time to run for water with the roof blazing and no neighbors within miles. With the quick wit of one used to meeting emergencies in a raw country, Maria jumped on a chair, splashed milk on the fire from a pan, and extinguished it. Lizzie, the paralytic, who had not walked for years, was found outside and away from the burning building, and neither

one could understand how she got there. Lizzie was practically helpless for fifteen years, although she could do a little sewing, and made some bobbin lace, but her hands were all crooked-up with rheumatism and she was paralyzed from her hips down. In later years they moved into their brother's empty cabin to be nearer neighbors.

Maria Frazier is listed at Nellie in the 1914 and 1915 county directories [20,21].

In the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper of October 14, 1914, this item appeared [53]:

QUINLANS RETURN FROM SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Quinlan, better known as "Dad and Ma" Quinlan, returned Tuesday evening from Palomar mountain, where they spent a most delightful summer, having left three months ago. They camped in Frazer cottage, where many friends called. They did not eat a piece of beef while gone, having had plenty of wild game, including deer, mountain quail and trout. For several nights before leaving they had fire to keep warm. They report a jolly good time in general.

On August 10, 1916, and on August 23, 1917, the Escondido Times-Advocate published notes that the Quinlans were "summering on one of the ranches belonging to the Misses Frazier," and that they were "expected shortly for their usual summer occupancy of the Frazer home. [62]"

Maria and Lizzie Frazier are listed as ranchers at Nellie (Palomar Mountain) in the San Diego City and County directories for 1916 to 1918 [1,2,3].

News items pertaining to Maria Frazier's activities appear in the Escondido newspapers, indicating she was not so aloof as given the impression in some readings [60,61]:

Mr. H. N. Hargrave of Valley Center was a mountain visitor on Friday. He brought some freight to Miss Frazer [sic] and expected to haul down a load of firewood. Miss Maria Frazer and Mrs. A. B. Martin drove to Pala and back on business, Tuesday and

Wednesday. ... Word has arrived of the birth of a baby boy to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Frazer of St. Louis, Mo. Harvey Frazer was a resident of Palomar for a year and is a nephew of Miss Maria Frazer.

Miss Maria Frazer and Mrs. A. B. Martin returned Sunday from a shopping trip to Escondido. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Quinlan of Escondido arrived Saturday for an outing on the Frazer place.

DEATH OF MARIA FRAZIER

In the Escondido Daily Times-Advocate newspaper of August 29, 1918, this story appeared [59]:

Old Timer Found Dead. Miss Maria Fraser Passes On At her Mountain Home – Invalid Sister Waited Three Days And Nights For Help.

Miss Maria Frazer, aged 65 years, a resident of Palomar mountain for the past 25 years, where she and her sister, Miss Lizzie Frazer, aged 60, took up homesteads in the early days, was found dead at her home at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon by Carl Mendenhall, a neighbor who had made it a habit to call at the place about twice a week to see how the two aged sisters were getting along. The story of the death is a distressing and pitiful one. Miss Lizzie has long been an invalid, partly paralyzed. Her older sister looked after their two small ranches and their stock. Last Sunday afternoon Miss Maria went for a short stay at the Louis Salmons ranch. Upon her return she felt ill and flung herself across her bed to rest. She never recovered consciousness and her paralyzed sister soon realized that she was dead. Miss Lizzie remained in the house Sunday night, but had to leave the next day as best she could and lie under a tree nearby, waiting for someone to come and render aid.

Decomposition had set in and it would have been impossible for anyone to remain in the house. With this condition getting worse, the paralyzed sister waited three nights and three days until four

o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when Carl Mendenhall arrived. The paralyzed sister was taken to the Salmons ranch, where she is being cared for, and Coroner Schuyler Kelly was summoned from San Diego. That official and his autopsy surgeon, Dr. J. J. Shea, and Wm. Durfey, of the Coroner's office, arrived on Palomar late Wednesday night, or early on Thursday, and made an investigation. The remains were ordered interred at once, being in very bad condition. Heart disease was thought to be the cause of death. Miss Frazer had a great many friends, all of whom will regret to hear of her sad death. She was of peculiar type and was a character among the mountain people, being full of life, bright thoughts and ideas and of exceptional independence of spirit.

Dick Mendenhall writes [29]:

The Frazier sisters lived on the east end of the Mendenhall Valley. The Beckler book had Maria Frazier's death a little wrong. Mama [Retha Mendenhall, wife of Carl Mendenhall] and Marion Davis found her, and she was not dumped into a well. The men built a large casket, first, but it was still too small, so they wrapped her in the mattress and blankets, and buried her in the hole in the ground where she used to keep her food to keep it cool. It was only about 4 foot deep. Lizzie Frazier stayed with us until her family came for her.

Leona Mendenhall Bloomer writes [29]:

I remember this. – Lizzie was completely crippled. After the sister died, she rang the dinner bell for a long time, hoping the sound would carry down the valley to our house. When no one came, and the odor became too much to stand, she dragged herself up into the apple orchard, dragging a container of water with her. Mama said when she came to the house she knew something was wrong. The window was completely covered with flies, except in the center where there was a yellow jacket. Then she saw something white waving in the orchard. It was Lizzie. When they reached her, she told them what had happened. They got her into the wagon, and drove back home to get Daddy. He contacted Stan Davis and the other men on the mountain, and they buried Maria. They couldn't

wait for word to reach her brother, Jack. Lizzie stayed with us for several days. She was very thin. I remember Mama saying that when she bathed her, her hand sank completely into the hollow under her arms.

David Charles Mendenhall writes [30]:

Mariah had to take care of Lizzie, who was crippled, however Mariah died first and created a problem. One summer Aunt Mary and Aunt Retha (Carl's wife), were both staying at the upper [Mendenhall] ranch house. One day the men had gone off riding to the far end of the ranch. Mary and Retha hadn't heard from the Frazier sisters for a week or so, and they decided to saddle up their horses and ride out to see if those ladies, getting old, needed anything. It was located eastward about two miles, and out of sight. When Mary and Retha got there Lizzie was on the porch in a rocking chair and tinkling a little bell, hoping to catch their attention. She had crawled out in the yard to open a gate where they had a few calves penned, and somehow gotten back on the porch. Mariah had died in the bedroom several days before, and the stench had driven Lizzie to the porch, so she was hungry and in bad shape. Next day, Lizzie was taken to town and someone took care of her. Uncle Frank and some other men went out and "disposed" of Mariah's body. Exactly how they went about it is still a mystery. On two or three occasions a year later someone would ask Uncle Frank what they did with the body and he always just clammed up – wouldn't say a word. We suspect that they took care of that unpleasant job by dumping body, mattress and all, down into the well and shoveled dirt over the odoriferous mess. The remains of the well are now just a depression in the ground.

Ed Davis writes [28]:

Grown old with years of labor and hardships Maria, one Sunday after a short horseback ride to visit Mrs. Salmons, lay down on her bed and died. This was early in November, 1918. Lizzie was in the room with the dead body all night. Next morning, Lizzie worked her rocker out of the house to let a calf out of the corral and with an old cow bell tried to attract attention and called 'till her voice

gave out. From Sunday night until after Tuesday, which was election day, not a soul came near. One night she slid to the ground while asleep, but fearing the half-wild hogs would find and devour her, she dragged herself to the safety of her chair. She was unable to return to the house after releasing the calf, and so for three days she was without food or water, half-way between the corral and the house. After three days, Marion Davis, who rode over to see how the sisters were faring, found Lizzie almost dead from exhaustion and lack of food and water. She was tenderly cared for by Mrs. Salmons until relatives came and took her away...

Elsie Hayes Roberts writes [24]:

AUGUST

[August 28] Wednesday, just after supper Mr. Davis phoned the dreadful news of Miss Maria Frazier's death Sunday. I remember the first time Alice and I met Miss Lizzie Frazier. We had mounted the same horse, gone for a ride of exploration, and stopped at their house. Miss Lizzie was so excited at having callers and meeting new neighbors that she questioned us so fast she could not wait for answers. "You're really a family? Where'd you come from?"

The Frazier sisters lived alone. They were very interesting, fine, and independent women. Miss Maria and Miss Lizzie Frazier had been seamstresses that had tired for city life. They chose Palomar Mountain because they wanted something more primitive. For a little while, Miss Lizzie carried the mail on horseback. She was one of the first mail carriers. Marie and Lizzie had cattle, cut their own wood, and took care of their own affairs. They fit the description of old maids. Miss Maria was the one who did all the work and took care of Miss Lizzie, who by then had become bedfast.

On August 29, I looked after mail alone. Jack came in afternoon after helping make coffin, dig grave, burial terrible due to circumstances [PB: Elsie and her husband Jack Roberts ran the post office]. Miss Lizzie is bearing up wonderfully. Jack related the story to us. Miss Maria had died suddenly of a heart attack while in bed, and Miss

Lizzie managed to crawl out of the house and opened the gates to the corral somehow to let the cattle out. It was four days before anyone came to check on them. Miss Lizzie sat in a chair in the yard waiting for help. Jack said that Miss Lizzie was poised, dignified and unshaken by the experience. The coroner had come up the mountain but could not locate where the Frazier sisters lived. Jack and the men on the mountain went down and buried Miss Maria. Since she had been dead four days, it was necessary to dig a large hole, carry her body out with the mattress and bury her. The people living on Palomar are strong, self-sufficient and sometimes eccentric individuals. I am proud to be a part of them as I watch them take on tasks to assist each other.

Louis Salmons said this about the death of Maria Frazier [37]:

So Mendenhall, the wife, went up to see her there one afternoon. She'd died a couple of days before that. She went in and laid down on the bed. Said - told her sister she didn't feel good. She was gone. And that was a couple or three days after that that we found it out. Well, one of the Mendenhalls (Carl Mendenhall's wife) went up to see her. Hadn't seen her for a day or two, and we kinda kept track of 'em, so we went up there, and there she was. Her sister had moved out of the house and got up on a little hill there by the house with her wheelchair and we buried her. Oh, we buried her and just with ... And her mattress ... Just folded the mattress right over and took her out and buried her. They had a place there that was dug about three or four feet deep. She used to make butter and kept butter down in there. It was cool and we buried her right in that, mattress and all. We took Maria out and buried her in this hole under a tree right by the house there. Why we took Lizzie over to the house and my wife made her some clothes and she was intending to go down to the county hospital and pay her way.

Catharine Wood writes [25]:

One Sunday, during a hot summer, ... Miss Maria came into the house, lay across the bed to rest and never woke up. Miss Lizzie, after arranging her dead sister for burial as best she could, hitched her chair outside and began ringing a cowbell for help in case

someone might be passing through the valley, but no help came. She laboriously hitched her chair along to the barn and managed to set the stock free so they could get water, ringing her bell at intervals. As the days passed, the odor from the body became unbearable and after obtaining a little water she slowly hitched her chair up into the orchard back of the house and continued ringing the bell. Later she said that Tuesday night a light shone from the window of the room where the body lay, illuminating a spot under the tree where the sister used to work. The sight encouraged her, for she thought it was her sister's spirit come to comfort her. Some people claim that decomposition may have resulted in a phosphorescent glow. Finally on the fourth day help came. Mrs. Carl Mendenhall, who for some reason had the Frazier sisters on her mind, rode horseback with a friend over to the Frazier ranch. It was not hard to tell what had happened, so she followed the sound of the bell to the crippled sister in the orchard, who was more composed than either of the other women. The friend mounted her horse and rode across the valley for help at such speed that the men who saw her coming were prepared for bad news. Respecting Miss Lizzie's wishes, the neighbors made a coffin, but she never knew they could not use it. The coroner and an undertaker came up but did not go within about a hundred yards of the house, saying there was nothing they could do, and so kind neighbors managed to bury Miss Maria in her yard, with the mattress for a coffin.

Miss Lizzie stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Salmons until her brother came from Illinois, disposed of the property and took her home with him. Miss Lizzie did not want to go but there seemed nothing else to do.

Marian Beckler writes [26]:

The Carl Mendenhall family was living in Mendenhall Valley. The road to Dyche Valley passed the Frazier sisters' apple orchard. Mrs. Mendenhall had not seen Maria Frazier passing to get the mail from Nellie. She worried, knowing no one had been along the road past Fraziers. Her uneasiness grew. Finally she rode over to see if anything was wrong. Four days ago Miss Maria, exhausted from trying to corral some fractious calves, had come into the

house and dropped down on her bed. Miss Maria had been dead four days! The neighbors came, and buried her.

In the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper of September 19, 1918, this item appeared [58]:

Thamos [sic] Frazer, brother of Miss Lizzie Frazer, arrived from Illinois on Tuesday last, and is attending to the settlement and sale of the estate of the Frazer sisters. Miss Lizzie Frazer is being entertained for a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Hayes.

Louis Salmons said this [37]:

And about that time her brother came out from Illinois. Somebody had written him that Maria had died and they had some cattle and a lot of land there and he wasn't going to overlook anything. So he came out and Lizzie was there at our place. So he was going to just make that headquarters. He went in and turned his horse in the pasture and come in and I told him right where to head in. So he went out and caught his horse and went off somewhere else.

The Mendenhalls bought the cattle and the land. The brother took Lizzie back east. ... The county ... came up and sent an appraiser up to appraise the cattle and the land and everything. He got in as far as my place. He never got within six miles of the cattle or the land, but he appraised them. The coroner then was a little fellow that couldn't straighten up. ... Eddie Reed. He was the administrator, not the coroner.

Elsie Hayes Roberts writes [24]:

SEPTEMBER

Helped Miss Lizzie Frazier September 18 with sewing and pressing and writing, the last was an epitaph for her sister. The Fraziers left the next day, Clinton Bailey coming for them by machine. ... Papa went to the Frazier place bringing back furniture

he and Jack are to sell for Miss Lizzie. [PB: Papa is Alonzo Hayes and Jack is Elsie's husband]

In the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper of September 20, 1918, this item appeared [57]:

THOMAS FRAZIER TAKES SISTER TO HOME IN IOWA

Thomas Frazier, of Iowa, who was here settling up the estate of his deceased sister, Miss Maria Frazier, left Thursday afternoon for his home, taking his sister, Miss Lizzie Frazier, to his home for the balance of her life. Miss Lizzie Frazier is almost helpless with inflammatory rheumatism.

In the San Diego Union newspaper of October 2, 1918, this item appeared [56]:

Thomas Frazer of Rockford, Ill., who has been on the mountain on business connected with the affairs of the Frazer sisters, has returned, accompanied by Miss Lizzie Frazer, who will make her home with eastern relatives.

DEATH OF LIZZIE FRAZIER

In the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper of November 12, 1918, this item appeared [54]:

FOLLOWS HER SISTER TO GRAVE

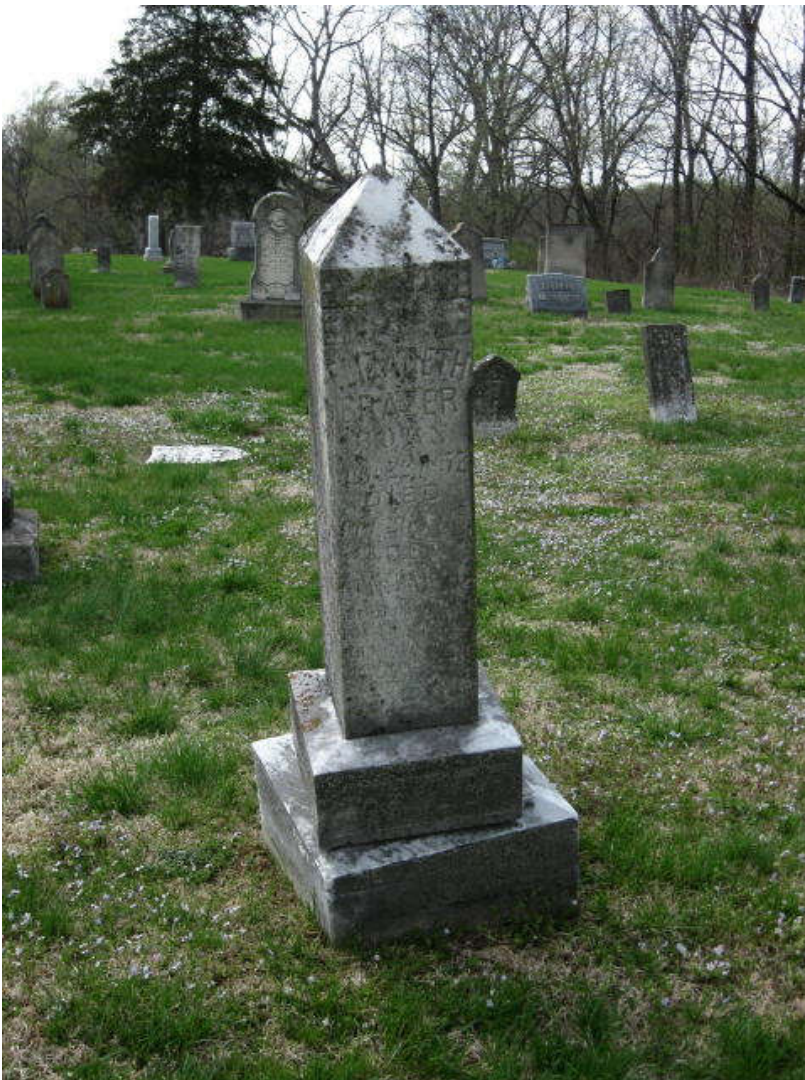
Miss Lizzie Frazer, 30 years a resident of Palomar, dies one month after Maria Frazer

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Quinlan have received a letter bringing the sad news of the death on October 26 of their old friend, Miss Lizzie Frazer, at the home of her brother, Tom Frazer, who resides at a small town in Illinois just east of St. Louis, Mo. Miss Frazer was about 60 years old. Her death came at 9 o'clock in the morning,

following a hearty breakfast at 7 o'clock. Heart failure was the cause of her death.

Miss Frazer passed on just one month after her sister, Miss Maria Frazer, died on Palomar Mountain, this county. The two sisters had resided on Palomar for thirty years. A brother who was with them many years died some years ago. The remaining sister went with her brother, Tom Frazer, to make her home in Illinois, but survived her life companion only one month.

Elizabeth Frazer (born June 22, 1857 and died October 26, 1918) is buried at the Ebenezer Memorial Cemetery in Rockwood, Randolph County, Illinois.



Findagrave ID 108599344

A notice of an upcoming estate property sale for Elizabeth Frazer, also known as Lizzie Frazer, appeared in the Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate of August 6, 1920, and identified several properties for sale by the estate administrator Edwin Reed [55]:

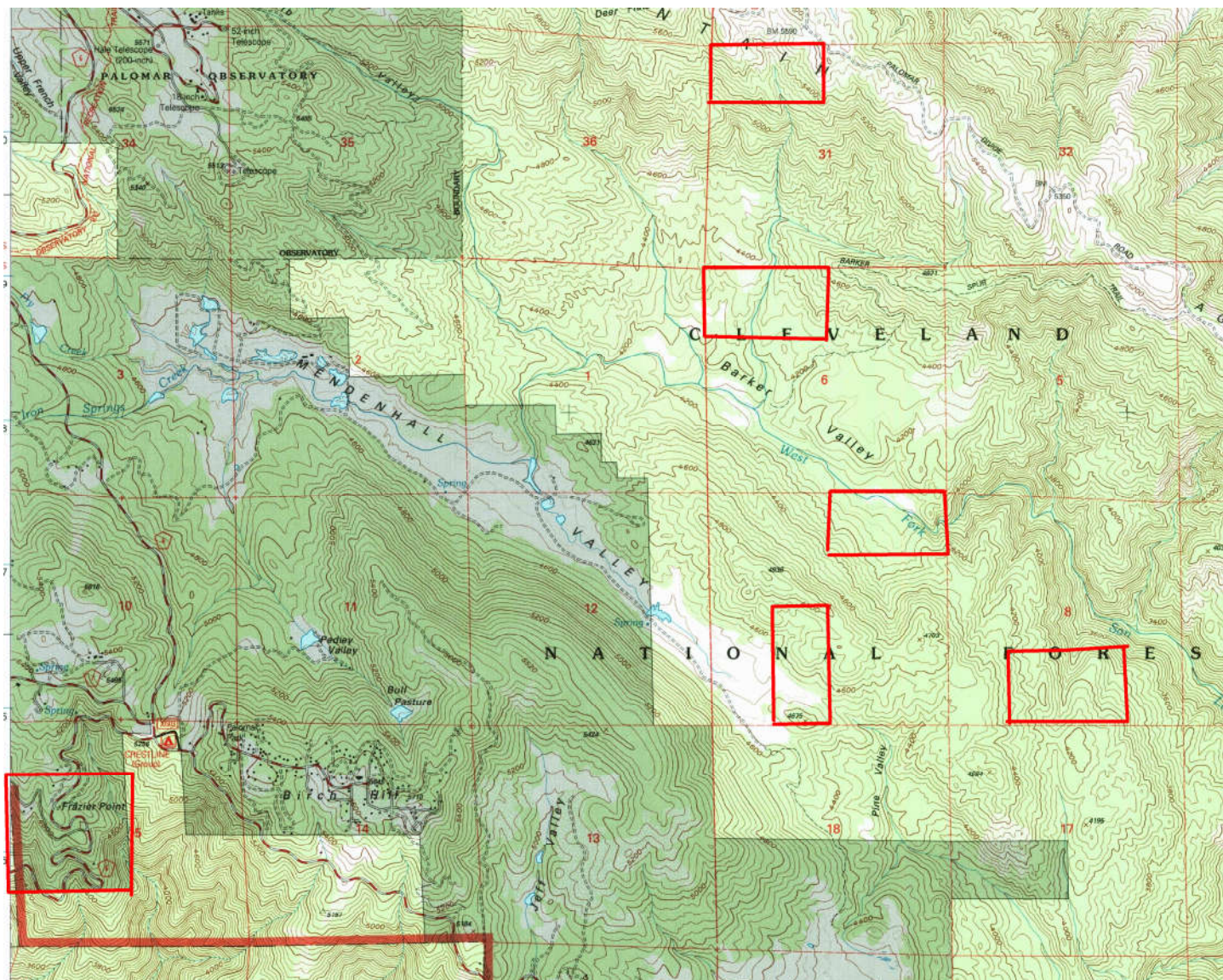
Parcel I: South $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW Quarter, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW Quarter of Section 15, Township 10 South, Range 1 East. This is the Frazier Point property.

Parcel II: East $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW Quarter of Section 7, Township 10 South, Range 2 East.

Parcel III: SE Quarter of SW Quarter and SW Quarter of SE Quarter of Section 8, and North $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE Quarter of Section 7, Township 10 South, Range 2 East.

Parcel IV: Lots 3 and 4, being N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW Quarter of Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 2 East.

Parcel V: Lots 3 and 4, being N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, Township 9 South, Range 3 East.



1920 estate sale of five parcels of Elizabeth Frazer land

Overlaid on 1997 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory map

David Charles Mendenhall writes [30]:

... the Mendenhalls acquired ownership of all the Frazier land except a separate parcel of 120 acres located mostly on the steep mountain slopes to the south of Mendenhall Valley. Somehow the title of this parcel went to a nephew who did not live on the mountain, and I think his name was Richard. Years later, I believe about 1959, Papa decided it would be a good idea to get that land because two places there were corners that were down in the edge of the valley and sometime in the future someone might demand an easement to them to build a cabin there and it would be a nuisance. He didn't have any idea where Richard Frazier then lived, but somehow he found him in a small town in central California,

driving a bakery delivery truck. He persuaded Richard to come down and review the land and perhaps sell it. Richard came down and stayed three days with Papa in Escondido. Each day they went up and reviewed the property location, which was not too well marked. There are some springs on the area and Frazier tried to “look” them unto his property – but couldn’t quite. He of course thought the property was worth much more than \$10 per acre, but there was no other prospective buyer and Papa stubbornly stuck to his price, so finally Frazier took that amount of money, signed over the deed, and went home.

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- 18= San Diegan Sun, November 4, 1902, page 2, column 4
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31= Plat book of San Diego County, California. William E. Alexander. Los Angeles: Pacific Plat Book Co., [1912?]. page 92. www.loc.gov/item/2007626895/
32= The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records of land patents records these lands for the Fraziers/Frazers [www.glorerecords.blm.gov/]:

32a= James Frazier
Cash Sale, March 26, 1894 – 80 acres
Township 010S – Range 002E - Section 7 - E½SW¼

32b= James Frazier
Homestead, July 24, 1911 (recorded with a later date as Robert Asher relates) – 160 acres
Township 010S – Range 001E – Section 12 - E½SW¼
Township 010S – Range 001E – Section 12 - S½SE¼

32c= Mariah Frazer
Homestead, September 26, 1902 – 164 acres
Township 009S – Range 002E – Section 31 - Lot/Tract 3
Township 009S – Range 002E – Section 31 - Lot/Tract 4
Township 010S – Range 002E – Section 6 - Lot/Tract 3
Township 010S – Range 002E – Section 6 - Lot/Tract 4

32d= Lizzie Frazer
Homestead, August 29, 1902 – 160 acres
Township 010S – Range 002E – Section 7 - N½NE¼
Township 010S – Range 002E – Section 6 - SW¼SE¼
Township 010S – Range 002E – Section 6 - SE¼SW¼

33= Township 10S R1E map on page 91 IN: Plat book of San Diego County, California. William E. Alexander. Los Angeles: Pacific Plat Book Co., [1912?]
www.loc.gov/item/2007626895/

34= Township 9S R2E map on page 89 IN: Plat book of San Diego County, California. William E. Alexander. Los Angeles: Pacific Plat Book Co., [1912?]
www.loc.gov/item/2007626895

35= San Diego Union, August 12, 1901, page 8, column 3. Sale of Frazier Point property of 160 acres by James R. Newman to Mariah Frazer for \$490. This property is located at north half of the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 15, township 10S, R1E and was homesteaded by William J. Morrison with land patent issue date of April 30, 1896. See The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records of land patents records this land [www.glorerecords.blm.gov/]

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www.ilsos.gov/isaveterans/civilmustersrch.jsp

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41= Escondido Times-Advocate, May 31, 1913, page 2, column 2

42= Los Angeles Times, June 1, 1913, page 11

43= San Diego Union, February 8, 1894, page 5, column 2

44= San Diego Union, February 9, 1894, page 8, column 1

45= San Diego Union, February 22, 1894, page 5, column 2

46= San Diego Union, April 8, 1894, page 5, column 2

47= Escondido Times, September 20, 1894, page 3, column 3

48= San Diego Union, October 5, 1899, page 5, column 2

49= San Diego Union, July 9, 1907, page 3, column 4

50= Escondido Times, August 11, 1905, page 6, column 2

51= San Diego Union, December 29, 1904, page 8, column 3

52= Escondido Times, January 26, 1906, page 2, column 2

53= Escondido Times-Advocate, October 14, 1914, page 3, column 4

54= Escondido Times-Advocate, November 12, 1918, page 1 column 4

55= Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate, August 6, 1920, page 7, column 1

56= San Diego Union, October 2, 1918, page 8, column 4

57= Escondido Times-Advocate, September 20, 1918, page 1, column 4

58= Escondido Times-Advocate, September 19, 1918, page 2, column 3

59= Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, August 29, 1918, page 1, column 1

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65= Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate, April 8, 1910, page 1, column 5

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70= Escondido Times, December 14, 1906, page 5, column 2

71= Escondido Times, September 21, 1906, page 3, column 3

72= San Diego Union, June 25, 1906, page 12, column 2

73= Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, November 22, 1913, page 3, column 2

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75= San Diego Union, October 22, 1896, page 6, column 4

76= San Diego Union, November 10, 1902, page 8, column 2

77= San Diego Union, March 14, 1891, page 5, column 2

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79= San Diego Union, September 12, 1896, page 5, column 1
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